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EXCAVATIONS AT SHEIKH ABD EL GURNEH
1925-26

By **ROBERT MOND, M.A., AND WALTER B. EMERY**

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WITH PLATES I-XXXIX

On January 1, 1925, the University reopened its work at Sheikh Abd el Gurneh with fifty workmen and boys. By the end of the second week the number of workers was increased to over four hundred, and with this body of men the work was continued until the end of March 1925, to be recommenced in the January of the following year. Our report therefore covers a period of over six months' work.

Before giving the results of our work in detail it would perhaps be best to give a brief summary of the more important discoveries. (See Pl. I.)

THE TOMB OF RAMOSE. Completely cleared of debris. Restorations in the hypostyle hall and gateway.

THE TOMB OF PAHEQMEN. Completely cleared of debris. Reliefs photographed and burial chambers examined.

THE TOMB OF NEKHTAMEN. Completely cleared of debris. Wall paintings hand-copied and burial chambers examined.

THE TOMB OF THOTMOSE. Completely cleared of debris. Burial pits examined.

THE TOMB OF AMENHOTEP. Completely cleared of debris. Burial pits examined.

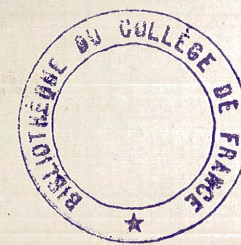
THE TOMB OF USERHET. Repaired. Burial pits examined.

THE TOMB OF ANENA. Court completely cleared of debris.

THE TOMB OF RAMOSE. Entrance and first hall completely cleared of debris.

THE TOMB OF KHONSU. Inner shrine discovered. Cleared of debris and burial chambers examined.

THE TOMB OF MINNEKHT. Complete clearance of the court.



4° 4. 48

THE TOMB OF NEFERHOTEP. Partial restoration of the wall reliefs.
THE TOMB OF THOTSSEN. Completely cleared of debris. Burial chambers examined.

THE TOMB OF RAMOSE. Plate II
The Burial Chamber

On February 5, 1925, we commenced the clearance of the burial chamber of the tomb of Ramose, the entrance of which had been discovered during the work of the preceding season. Owing to the great length of the galleries leading down to the first hall, we found it necessary to employ a chain of over a hundred boys to pass the baskets of debris to the surface. The gallery is 1.95 metres wide and 1.71 metres high and is cut down to the first hall at an angle of 37 degrees. Steps are cut to the side with the usual sarcophagus ramp down the centre.

The main hall is in an unfinished state, the walls being only roughly faced. The debris, which lay about one metre deep, proved to consist mainly of the masons' chippings, which had not been removed when the work was abandoned. Among this debris no objects of any description were found. It is interesting to note that the main hall was constructed in accordance with the four points of the compass.

On the east wall of chamber 1 is carved a stela which bears no trace of inscription, but the centre line, painted in red to guide the mason, is still plainly visible.

Chamber 2 was perhaps intended to hold a shrine, but as it was left only in a preliminary stage of excavation it is impossible to be certain on this point. On the west of the main hall, to the side of the doorway to chamber 5, is a false door which was probably intended to lead into a chamber which the masons had not yet excavated at the time when the tomb was abandoned.

We expected the burial chambers to come underneath or be in close proximity to the shrine above, but on making the survey, we found that this was not the case. We can only conclude that the direction of the gallery was altered to escape working through faulty rock. Plate III.

The Court

We recommenced the clearance of the court of the tomb of Ramose on January 20, 1925. The work went steadily forward, and by the end

of March the court was cleared of debris as far as the brick construction at the east end. Plate IV.

The mounds of debris above the court formed an interesting example of stratification. (Fig. 1.) There were four distinct layers which we marked A, B, C, and D. These consisted of the following:—

- A. Deposit of limestone rubble.
- B. Deposit of fragments of limestone left from the quarry work of fifty years ago.
- C. A hard deposit of animal refuse, grain and straw.
- D. A deposit of sand and limestone rubble on which the later constructions had been built.

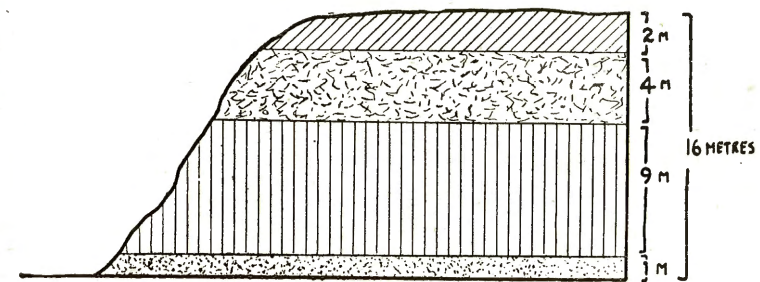


Fig. 1.

Our workmen were so arranged that they were able to clear each layer separately. Plates V and VIa.

On the west wall, to the left of the entrance to the hypostyle hall, we cleared two stele, cut out of the native rock, both of which were lacking inscriptions and were unfinished. Plate VIb. Both of the stele are undoubtedly contemporaneous with the original construction of the tomb.

In front of the doorway to the tomb we uncovered two sandstone pillar plinths, which undoubtedly belong to a later period, probably Ramesside. From their position in relation to the doorway we may conclude that they formed part of the pyramid portico characteristic of this period. (Bruyère. *Deir el Medineh. Fouilles de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale.*)

At the east end of the court we discovered a mud brick construction, probably contemporary with the pillar plinths which may have formed part of a pylon entrance to the court of the tomb.

On the north wall of the court we uncovered the entrance to Tomb A, which proved to be unfinished and uninscribed. During the Coptic period

it had been enlarged and used as a dwelling-place. A hole had been knocked through the east wall of chamber 2 into the hypostyle hall of the tomb of Ramose which we blocked with concrete. A number of plundered mummies were found in chamber 3, but beyond a few blue faience cylinder beads no objects of any description were found on them.

On the south side of the court is the entrance of Tomb 336 which was partly cleared during the work of the preceding season.

By December 31, 1925, we had completely cleared the mud brick construction mentioned above. The gateway had been cut away on the east side to give place to stone door jambs, but of these we found no trace. The step is formed of a large block of limestone roughly faced.

During the excavation of this area we found large quantities of funerary cones on level B.

On January 4, 1926, we uncovered the remains of a plundered burial of the Saitic period, against the north-west corner of the pylon gateway. This consisted of the broken fragments of the coffin, blue faience cylinder beads and an uninscribed heart scarab of green stone.

On January 14 we discovered the first traces of the great stairway leading down into the court. This stairway is cut in the native rock and is over twelve metres long by three metres wide. It consists of twenty-five steps with a smooth ramp down the centre on which the sarcophagus would have been lowered. On the north side of the stairway no attempt has been made to cut away the rock, which was left to form a natural platform. On this platform was built a brick wall, which formed an enclosure round the entrance to Tomb 3, which had been cut in the north wall of the court. Plates VII and VIII.

By January 25 the stairway was completely cleared of debris and our excavation of the tomb of Ramose was brought to an end.

During the work of the two seasons, we found and examined six burial pits in the court, all of which proved to be the work of a later period than the original construction.

Pit 9. Depth of shaft 7 m. Area of chamber 1.85 by 1.12 m. Height of chamber 1 m. Break through in east wall of chamber to Pit 8.

Pit. 8. Depth of shaft 6.85 m. Area of chamber 2.50 by 3.80 m. Height of chamber 1.05 m. Break through in east wall to Pit 7.

Pit. 10. Depth of shaft 7.25 m. Area of chamber 1.55 by 1.47 m. Height of chamber 1 m.

Pit. 11. Depth of shaft 5.85 m. Area of chamber 1.55 by 1.20 m. Height of chamber 1.37 m.

Pit. 14. Depth of shaft 3.80 m. Area of chamber 3.00 by 1.05 m. Height of chamber 8 m. Break at bottom of shaft into Pit 15.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

Pit 15. Depth of shaft 4.20 m. Area of chamber 4.10 by 1.05 m. Height of chamber 1.25 m.

The following is a list of the miscellaneous objects and monuments found in the court and burial pits. Plate XVII.

Cat. No. 25/78. Funerary cone. Dar. 121. From the court, level B. Fig. 2.




Fig. 4.

Cat. No. 26/1. Two fragments of a burnt brick, bearing the impression of a funerary cone. Dar. 249. From the court, level B. Fig. 3.

Cat. No. 26/6. Funerary cone. Dar. 243. From the court, level B. Fig. 4.

Cat. No. 25/29. Burnt clay ushabti, painted in white, red, and black.

Text down centre . Size, 12 cm. high.

From the court, level B.

Cat. No. 25/38. Wooden ushabti. No inscription. Size 16 cm. high. From the court, level B.

Cat. No. 26/19. Wooden ushabti. Traces of bitumen coating. No inscription. Size 25 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Cat. No. 26/25. Twenty-four small clay ushabtiu. No inscription. Size 4 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Cat. No. 26/26. Nine blue faience ushabtiu. No inscription. Size 7 cm. high. From the court, level D.

Cat. No. 26/38. Burnt clay ushabti. Traces of yellow paint. Size 8 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Cat. No. 26/43. Wooden ushabti. Traces of paint. Inscription obliterated. Size 20 cm. high. From the court, level B.

Cat. No. 25/18. Blue faience heart scarab. No inscription. Size 4 cm. long. From the court, level B.

Cat. No. 26/16. Heart scarab of green stone. No inscription. Size 3 cm. long. Found within the remains of a plundered mummy lying above Pit 11.

Cat. No. 26/29. Blue faience breast scarab from a pectoral. Size 6 cm. long. From the court, level C.

Cat. No. 26/17. Fragments of a necklace of faience cylinder beads. Alternate colours of blue, red, white, and green. Size 32 cm. long. From the court, level D.

Cat. No. 26/20. Wooden uraeus, painted in red, yellow, and green. The figure is represented wearing the red crown. Size 15 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Cat. No. 25/53. Wooden plume, probably from the Atef crown of a funerary figure. Inlaid with blue faience. Size 16 cm. long. From pit 11.

Cat. No. 26/152. Lower part of a small limestone statue. Group of two seated figures, male and female. Nothing remains of the male figure with the exception of the feet. The female figure is broken off at the waist. Text painted in blue with red border lines. Text down centre of female figure; see Fig. 5a. Text round

base of statue; see Fig. 5b. Size 25 cm. high. From the court, level B. Plate IXc.

Cat. No. 26/70. Wooden hoe. The blade is attached to the handle by a socket at the base and by twisted cord in the centre. Size 48 cm. long. From level B above the stairway to the court. Plate IXb.

Cat. No. 26/85. Anthropoid coffin lid of the XXIV Dynasty. The designs, painted in four colours, are crudely executed and of little interest. This object was found a short distance below the surface, where it was left by plunderers in, probably, quite recent times. Plate IXc.

Cat. No. 26/27. Model head-rest of wood. Size 8 cm. long. From the court, level D.

Cat. No. 26/39. Limestone cap of canopic jar. Head of Hapi. Size 13 cm. high. From the court, level B.



Fig. 5a.

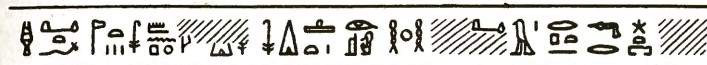


Fig. 5b.

Pottery.

The pottery found during the clearance of the court was, with two exceptions, all anterior to the XVIII Dynasty.

Type X. Pilgrim flask with long neck and bell mouth, two handles, smooth buff slip. Fig. 6. XVIII Dynasty.



Fig. 6.

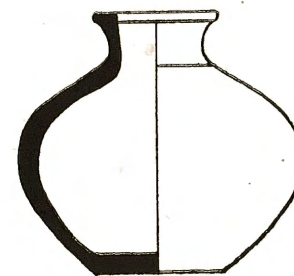


Fig. 7.

Cat. No. 26/47. Size 29 cm. high. Marks of suspending straps plainly visible. From Pit 9.

Type IV. Jar with flat base and roll rim mouth. XVIII Dynasty. Fig. 7.

Cat. No. 26/19. Size 18 cm. high. From Pit 7.

Type VII. Jar with pointed base and roll rim mouth. XXII Dynasty. Fig. 8.

Cat. No. 26/109. Size 47 cm. high. From Pit 9.

Cat. No. 26/110. Size 52 cm. high. From Pit 9.

Cat. No. 26/48. Size 41 cm. high. From the court, level D.

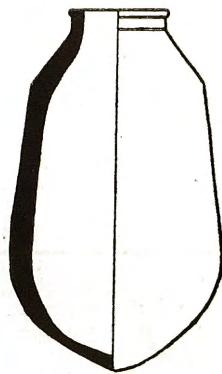


Fig. 8.

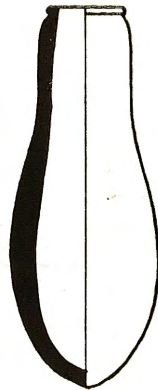


Fig. 9.

Type VIII. Jar with pointed base and roll rim neck. XXII Dynasty. Fig. 9.

Cat. No. 25/18. Size 40 cm. high. From the court, level D.

Cat. No. 25/32. Size 54 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Cat. No. 25/39. Size 48 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Cat. No. 26/113. Size 39 cm. high. From Pit 9.

Cat. No. 26/115. Size 45 cm. high. From Pit 9.

Type V. Jar with pointed base and bell neck. XXIV Dynasty. Fig. 10.

Cat. No. 25/48. Size 13 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Cat. No. 25/49. Size 11 cm. high. From Pit 7.

Cat. No. 26/58. Size 9 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Type II. Jar with pointed base, fluted neck and bell mouth. XXIV Dynasty. Fig. 11.

Cat. No. 26/117. Size 15 cm. high. From the court, level C.

Type VI. Jar with pointed base and roll rim. XXIV Dynasty. Fig. 12.

Cat. No. 25/11. Size 15 cm. high. From the court, level D.



Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.

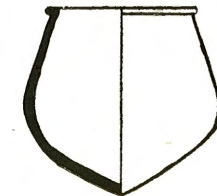


Fig. 12.

Type IX. Jar with rounded base and roll rim. XXIV Dynasty. Fig. 13.

Cat. No. 25/59. Size 52 cm. high. From Pit 11.

Cat. No. 26/50. Size 48 cm. high. From Pit 15.

Type XI. Jar with pointed base and roll rim. XXIV Dynasty. Fig. 14.

Cat. No. 26/73. Size 57 cm. high. From the court, level D.



Fig. 13.



Fig. 14.

The Restoration of the Tomb of Ramose

On October 5, 1925, we commenced our main work in the tomb of Ramose, to which the excavation was only a preliminary. This was the complete restoration and reconstruction of the tomb.

We first turned our attention to the west wall of the hypostyle hall, the upper portion of which had crumbled away when the roof of the hall fell in. After removing all loose stonework, we commenced to rebuild the fallen portion with limestone blocks. As these walls were rebuilt fragments of the original relief, which were found during the excavations, were replaced in their original positions, Plate X. While this work was in progress, we turned our attention to the fallen pillars in the hypostyle hall. From the numerous fragments of these pillars found during the excavations we were able to make an accurate restoration. They are of the papyriform order, with the same proportions as the pillars in the tombs of the nobles at Tell el Amarna.

Our restored pillars are built of an outer shell of burnt brick with a concrete core. The cap is of iron and cement with a hollow space left to receive the bolts which will hold the roof girders in place. The whole outer surface of the pillars is covered with a coating of plaster. Twelve of the pillars in the centre of the hall have been reconstructed, and we calculate that these will be sufficient to hold the roof which is to be erected next season. It has been decided not to reconstruct the pillars bordering the walls of the hall, for owing to their great width they would to a certain extent obscure the reliefs. Fragments on which we have based our reconstruction have in most cases been replaced in their correct positions. Plates XI, XII, XIII.

THE TOMB OF THOTMOSE. Plate XIV

The tomb of Thotmose was discovered on January 24, 1925, during the excavations above the north wall of the court of the tomb of Ramose. The tomb has suffered to a large extent from the quarry work of fifty years ago, the south walls standing to not more than one metre high and those on the north side having completely disappeared. It was probably a later construction than the tomb of Ramose, the workmanship of the few reliefs that remain dating it to the latter part of the XVIII Dynasty.

On the west wall of the second chamber was a shrine containing four figures, only the feet and base of which remain. The south wall of the passage has been carved in relief and painted, but most of the scenes have been obliterated. The name of the owner of the tomb was located on the inner door jamb of the first hall.

During the excavation, three pits were discovered and cleared of debris.

- Pit. 1. Situated in front of the shrine in the inner chamber. The cutting of the shaft was abandoned on the discovery of Tomb A below.
- Pit. 2. Depth of shaft, 3.25 m. Area of chamber 1.00 by 2.95 m. Height of chamber 1.20 m. Break through in west wall to Tomb A.
- Pit. 3. Depth of shaft 3.49 m. Area of chamber 1.00 by 1.25 m. Height of chamber 1.10 m. Break through in east wall to Tomb E.

No objects of interest were found with the exception of—

Cat. No. 26/18. Funerary cone. From Pit. 3. Fig. 15.



Fig. 15.

THE TOMB OF AMENHOTEP. Plates XV and XVI

Our excavations on the south side of the court of the tomb of Ramose resulted in the discovery of the tomb of Amenhotep and Tombs C and D.

From the irregular plan of the court of Ramose it is evident that the tomb of Amenhotep was constructed at some period prior to the greater work. The tomb has suffered to an even greater extent than that of Thotmose on the other side of the court of Ramose. Nothing remains but one inscribed door jamb of the main entrance, Plate XVIa, from which we gleaned the titles: Overseer of the Royal Harim of the High Priestess of Amen Thentipat (Queen of Rameses IV). Fig. 16.

From this evidence we may conclude that Amenhotep usurped the tomb from its XVIII Dynasty owner, Penra, forty-six of whose funerary cones we recovered from the burial chamber of the tomb.

A mud brick construction built before the main entrance to the tomb is probably also of Ramesside date.

Pit. 1. Situated in the court to the north of the entrance.

Depth of shaft 5.40 m. Area of chamber A 4.00 by 2.65 m.

Height of chamber 2.05 m.

Area of chamber B 3.95 by 2.90 m. Height of chamber 1.75 m.

Area of chamber C 3.75 by 1.50 m. Height of chamber 1.10 m.

Area of chamber D 2.00 by 1.50 m. Height of chamber .90 m.

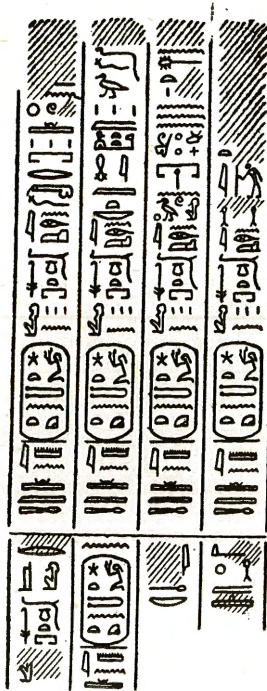


Fig. 16.



Fig. 17.



Fig. 18.

Among the objects of interest found in the burial chamber and in the court of the tomb are the following :—

Cat. No. 26/11. Funerary cone. Dar. 180. From the court, level B. Fig. 17.

Cat. No. 26/37. Funerary cone. Dar. 228. From Pit. 1. Fig. 18.

Cat. No. 26/50, 51, 52. Three blue faience ushabtiu, inscribed
Size 11 cm. high. From Pit 1. Plate XVIII a.



Cat. No. 26/44. Alabaster ointment palette. Size 7 cm. long.
From Pit 1. Fig. 19.

Cat. No. 20/46. Alabaster ointment palette. Size 12 cm. long.
From Pit 1. Fig. 20. (Compare with archaic type).

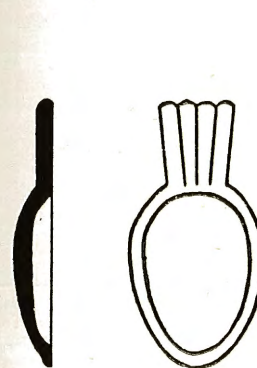


Fig. 19.

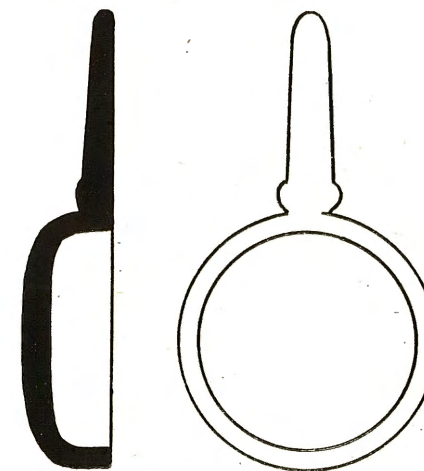
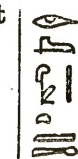


Fig. 20.

TOMBS C AND D

On the south side of the court of the tomb of Amenhotep are the doorways to the tombs marked C and D on the plan, Plate II. The first chambers of both these tombs have suffered to a large extent from the quarry work and bear no trace of inscriptions.

All the burial pits were cleared of debris and examined, but beyond the discovery of one hundred and thirty ushabtiu in Pit 2, nothing of interest was found. These ushabtiu, made of dried mud and painted black, are 8 cm. high, and bear a text painted in white. Plate XVIII b.



TOMB E

On February 15, 1926, the entrance to this tomb was discovered in the north wall of the court of the tomb of Ramose. After a complete excavation it proved to have been used as a dwelling in late Coptic times. No objects of any description were found.

THE TOMB OF USERHET

During a preliminary inspection of the tombs in the vicinity of Ramose, it was noticed that there was a definite subsidence in the walls and floor of the tomb of Userhet. We came to the conclusion that this was due to the crumbling and decay of the burial chamber beneath, and after a complete clearance and examination proved that this was the case. We decided to block up the burial chamber and passage with concrete, and this work has now been completed.

THE TOMB OF RAMOSE. No. 132

At the end of January 1925 we decided to clear the entrance to Tomb 132. This tomb had been cleared previously and had an iron gate up against the entrance, but due to numerous falls of debris from the ceiling, the doorway was more or less blocked and it was quite impossible to gain an entrance. The first and second chambers were cleared and a careful examination was made of the painted burial chamber. The tomb is now accessible to visitors.

THE TOMB OF NEFERHOTEP. No. 50

The restoration of this tomb was started in the last weeks of the 1923-24 season, but beyond a preliminary examination of the numerous fragments to be replaced, very little was done.

Neferhotep, the son of Amenemhat, was a Divine Father of Amen under Horemheb. The tomb was first published by Bénédite, and was then in a much better state of preservation than at the present time.

In 1905 Mr. Mond rebuilt the fallen walls about six inches back from the original surface in order that at a later date the broken fragments which lay on the floor of the tomb could be replaced in their correct positions.

Our first task was to level the floor of the second hall between walls D and K, and we completed this work by October 8, 1925. We then turned our attention to wall L, and our native mason laid a coating of white plaster on the surface of the wall, while the fragments which were

to be replaced were selected. By the end of the month this work was completed. On the upper register of this wall is depicted a festival scene, and although we were able to replace but a few fragments, the scheme of the design is now quite plain. Fig. 21.

The scene on the lower register evidently depicts the procession of the barque of Amen. Although a large number of the missing fragments were replaced, we cannot be certain of their correct position, inasmuch as the large gaps between them give us no connecting link.

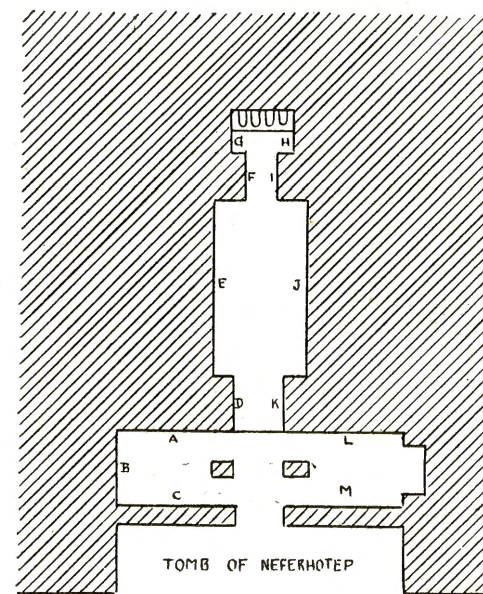


Fig. 21.

On wall E of the second hall we were able to replace a number of pieces in their correct order by reference to Bénédite's copy of the wall. By the end of November we were able to turn our attention to wall M, and here our efforts met with some success. The whole wall, with the exception of a few lines of inscriptions near the ceiling, had been broken away. From these texts it was evident that the missing scene depicted the judgment hall of Osiris, and with this before us we had no difficulty in finding and replacing the few remaining fragments of the original relief.

On the second register of this wall we were able to replace a number of fragments from the 'Negative Confession.' To fix each piece in its correct position was difficult, and we found it necessary to draw the whole design

on the plaster first, and to mark out the position of each fragment on this design.

Shortly after Christmas 1925 this wall was finished and we closed down our work in the tomb of Neferhotep until a later date, when our object will be to restore the remaining walls, raise the floor of the first hall to its original level, and rebuild the fallen pillars.

THE TOMB OF PAHEQMEN

The excavations to the north of the tomb of Ramose resulted, on February 23, 1925, in the discovery of the entrance of a tomb, which proved on examination to belong to the latter part of the XVIII Dynasty, built for Paheqmen, Overseer of Engravers. Plate XIX.

The tomb was known to the early Egyptologists, Wilkinson, Rosellini, etc., but at a later date the entrance became covered with rubbish and all trace of it was lost. When first we entered, the debris stood about one metre high, on the top of which lay the remains of five plundered mummies. These were examined but nothing of interest was found on them.

The tomb is a typical example of the XVIII Dynasty, consisting of main hall, passage, and shrine. The painted reliefs are quite conventional, and with the exception of wall C (Plate XXI) are of little interest. Plates XX to XXXI. We will not attempt to describe the reliefs in this preliminary report, as it is Mr. Mond's intention to publish the tomb in detail in a separate publication at a later date.

By the end of the 1925 season the tomb was cleared of all debris and an iron gate was built against the entrance by the Government Department.

Early in 1926 we turned our attention to the excavation of the court and burial chambers, and by the end of February we had uncovered a stairway of native rock which led down to it. The gateway is formed by a mud brick construction, probably a pylon entrance.

On the north wall of the court we cleared the entrance to an unfinished tomb devoid of inscriptions, marked F on the plan. A break in the floor of the court to the north of the stairway led to the discovery of the shrine of the tomb of Khonsu, described below.

Pits 1 and 2 are connected by a series of chambers in which we found sixteen plundered mummies, and fragments of coffins of a late period.

Among the objects of interest found during these excavations are the following:—

Cat. Nos. 26/107 to 115. Fragments of a painted wooden box, probably of the Ptolemaic period. Among these fragments was a gilt figure of Osiris (Cat. No. 26/114) which probably formed part of the lid. Size 15 cm. high. From the main entrance to the tomb. Plate XXXII.



Fig. 22. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

Cat. No. 26/2. Fragments of limestone, probably from the door jamb of the entrance, bearing a female figure painted in red. Size 37 cm. by 21 cm. From the court. Fig. 22.

Cat. No. 26/55. Limestone lid of a canopic jar. Head of Hapi. Size 7 cm. high. From Pit 2.

THE TOMB OF KHONSU. Plate XXXIII

The discovery of the shrine of Khonsu, during the excavation of the court of the tomb of Pahegmen, led us to undertake the complete clearance of the tomb. The tomb of Khonsu, First Prophet of Thotmose III, was discovered by Mr. Mond in 1905 but only partly cleared, the excavation being carried no further than the north end of the passage.

It is in a very poor state of preservation, the walls of the passage being cut away to within 75 cm. of the floor. Before attempting to clear the tomb our masons rebuilt the side of the doorway to the shrine, to support the roof, which was in a very unsafe condition. The shrine, which was cleared of debris by the middle of January, proved to be in a state of almost perfect preservation. The scenes, which are painted on a coating of mud plaster, depict the deceased adoring Osiris and Mentuhotep IV.

The only other discovery of interest in the tomb was the ceiling of the doorway to the shrine, on which was painted a vine amid which are depicted birds, locusts, etc., in a style reminiscent of the art of the Amarna period.

We excavated the burial chambers and pits 1 and 2, but beyond twenty-two small ushabtiu of dried mud, no objects of any description were found.

THE TOMB OF THOTSENB. Plate XXXIII

While building a retaining wall above the court of the tomb of Khonsu, we uncovered the corner of a mud brick construction, and this encouraged us to clear the area in the vicinity. We were rewarded with the tomb of Thotsenb.

The court, the entrance of which is bordered by two brick pylons, is divided by a wall of mud brick. The walls of the tomb are carved in relief and painted, but owing to it having been used as a dwelling at some recent date, these are in a state of very poor preservation and little of interest remains.

The burial chambers were examined but no objects were found. Five funerary cones were recovered from the debris in the court. Cat. No. 26/207.

TOMB G. Plate XXXIII

During the excavation of the court of the tomb of Khonsu we discovered the entrance to a tomb of the XVIII Dynasty, marked G on the plan. This proved to be unfinished, with no trace of inscriptions.

Among the objects found were :—

Cat. No. 25/97. Two fragments of a blue faience bowl. Pattern in black.

Cat. No. 25/99. Five burnt clay ushabtiu. Uninscribed. Size 7 cm. high.

THE TOMB OF NEKHTAMEN. Plate XXXIV

On January 5, 1925, the men working in the area to the south of the tomb of Ramose struck the entrance to a large tomb, marked H on the plan. On examination this proved to be an unfinished construction of the XII Dynasty. The entrance passage, the walls of which were only roughly faced, led into a square chamber which we found blocked with large boulders of rock which had fallen from the ceiling. Plate XXXVa. The burial chamber which led off from this was unfinished and had been left in the preliminary stages of excavation. In the centre of the chamber we cleared the entrance to a pit, but on examination this proved to our great disappointment, to be like the chamber, unfinished. It did not exceed a depth of more than one metre.

In the first chamber we found the remains of twenty-one plundered mummies of the Saitic period, which were examined, but beyond a quantity of blue faience cylinder beads nothing of interest was found on them.

On the west wall of the entrance passage an attempt had been made to cut a second burial chamber, probably at a later period, but this was abandoned before the work had progressed to any great extent.

Against the entrance to the tomb from the court we uncovered the remains of a vaulted gateway of mud brick, and from the size of the bricks we judged this to be the work of the XVIII Dynasty. Plate XXXVb.

After the passage had been cleared of debris we discovered a break in the east wall made by ancient plunderers. On entering through this hole we were rewarded with the discovery of a most interesting tomb of the XIX Dynasty, belonging to Nekhtamen, an Overseer of the Offering-Table in the reign of Rameses II.

The wall scenes, which are painted on mud plaster, are in a fair state of preservation, and for freedom of style are without parallel in the work of this period. We will not attempt to describe the wall paintings in this report, for like the tomb of Paheqmen, it is Mr. Mond's intention to publish them in detail at a later date.

But one or two features might be mentioned, among which is the bearded head of the figure of Rameses II (Fig. 23), the winged figure on the south wall (Plate XXXIX), and the dancing girl on the south wall of the



Fig. 23.



Fig. 24.

second chamber, with figures of the god Bes painted on her thighs (Fig. 24). The court, which forms part of the original enclosure of the XII Dynasty tomb, is surrounded by a brick wall with a gateway on the south. To the east of the entrance of the tomb we uncovered the remains of a limestone libation slab or altar but found no trace of a burial shaft.

Among the objects of interest found during the clearance of these two tombs are the following:—

Cat. No. 25/219. Burnt clay funerary stela, supported by kneeling human figure. This object was found in front of the doorway of the tomb of Nekhtamen in a niche of the pyramid portico, which, to judge by the number of bricks found in the court, was

built above the entrance to the tomb. Size 18 cm. high. Plate XXXVI.

Cat. No. 25/100. Fifty-two funerary cones, the text of which being painted and not incised was illegible. From the court of tomb H.

THE TOMB OF ANENA. No. 81

On January 28, 1925, we commenced the clearance of the court of the tomb of Anena. The court had never been completely excavated and we hoped to discover the burial shaft, but in this we were disappointed. No trace of a pit was found, but we were rewarded with the discovery of ninety-seven funerary cones, bearing the name of Anena, some of which were in an excellent state of preservation. Fig. 25.



Fig. 25.

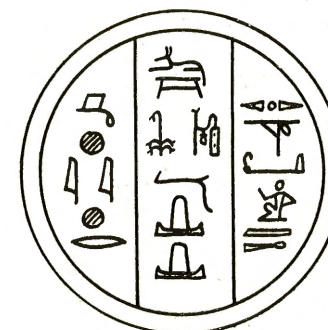


Fig. 26.

THE TOMB OF MINNEKHT. No. 87

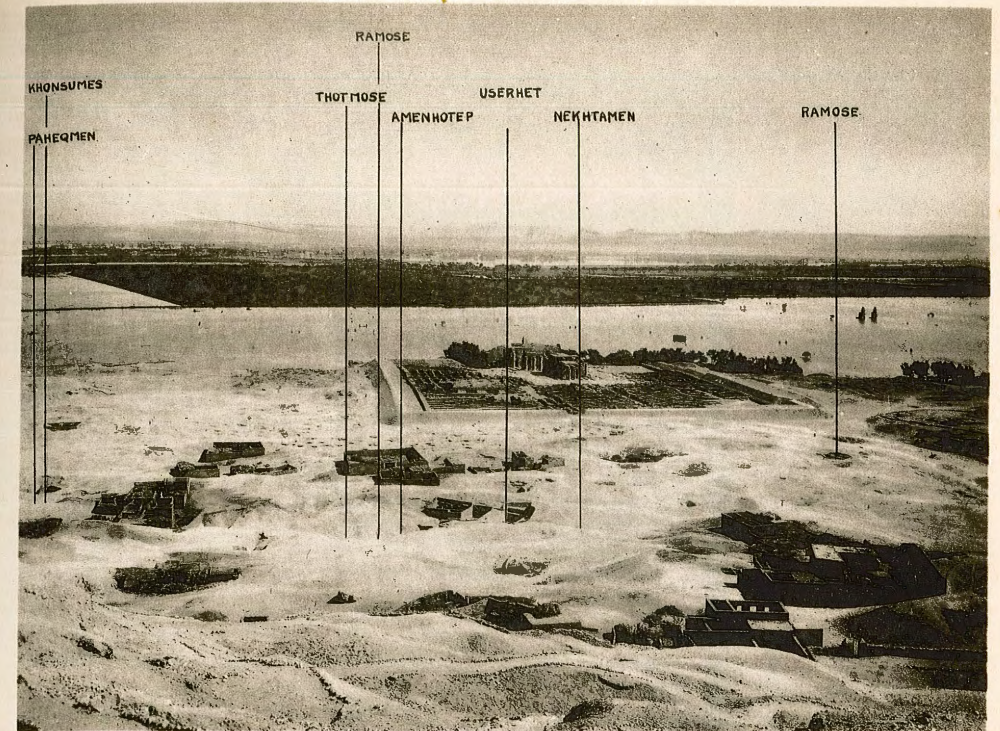
In clearing the court of the tomb of Minnekht during the latter part of our season of 1926, we discovered the lintel stone of the doorway, a fine example of the art of the period. Unfortunately, the stone in falling had broken into fragments, but sufficient remained for us to understand the decorative scheme. Plate XXXVIIb.

To the south of the doorway we uncovered a funerary stela built of mud brick. Plate XXXVIIa. The design and text which had been painted was completely obliterated. Five specimens of the funerary cones of Minnekht were recovered from the debris. Fig. 26.

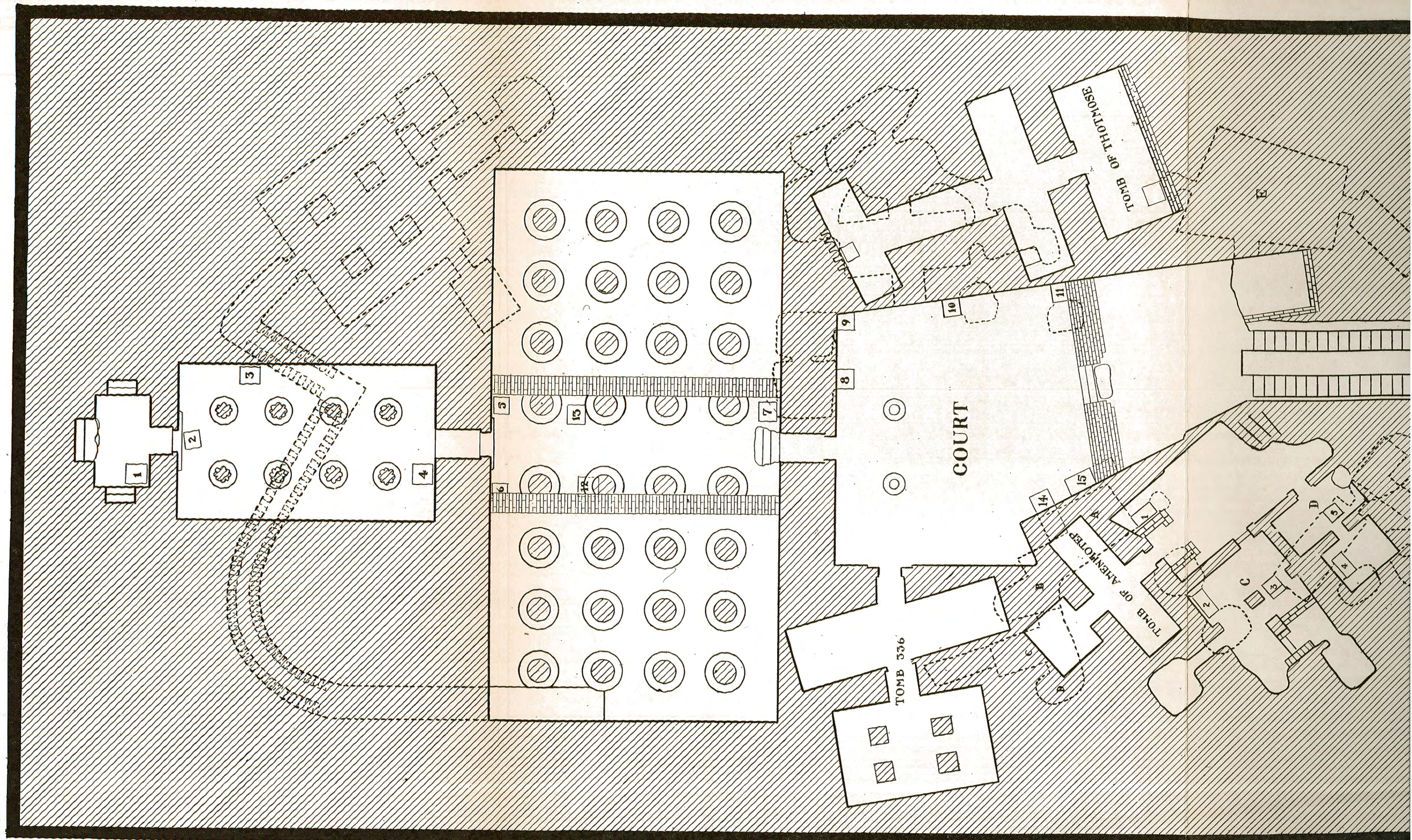
During the season of 1925 test pits were sunk a little to the south of Tomb 131, but no trace of a tomb was found. Curiously enough the work on this site resulted in the discovery of a very interesting ostrakon bearing

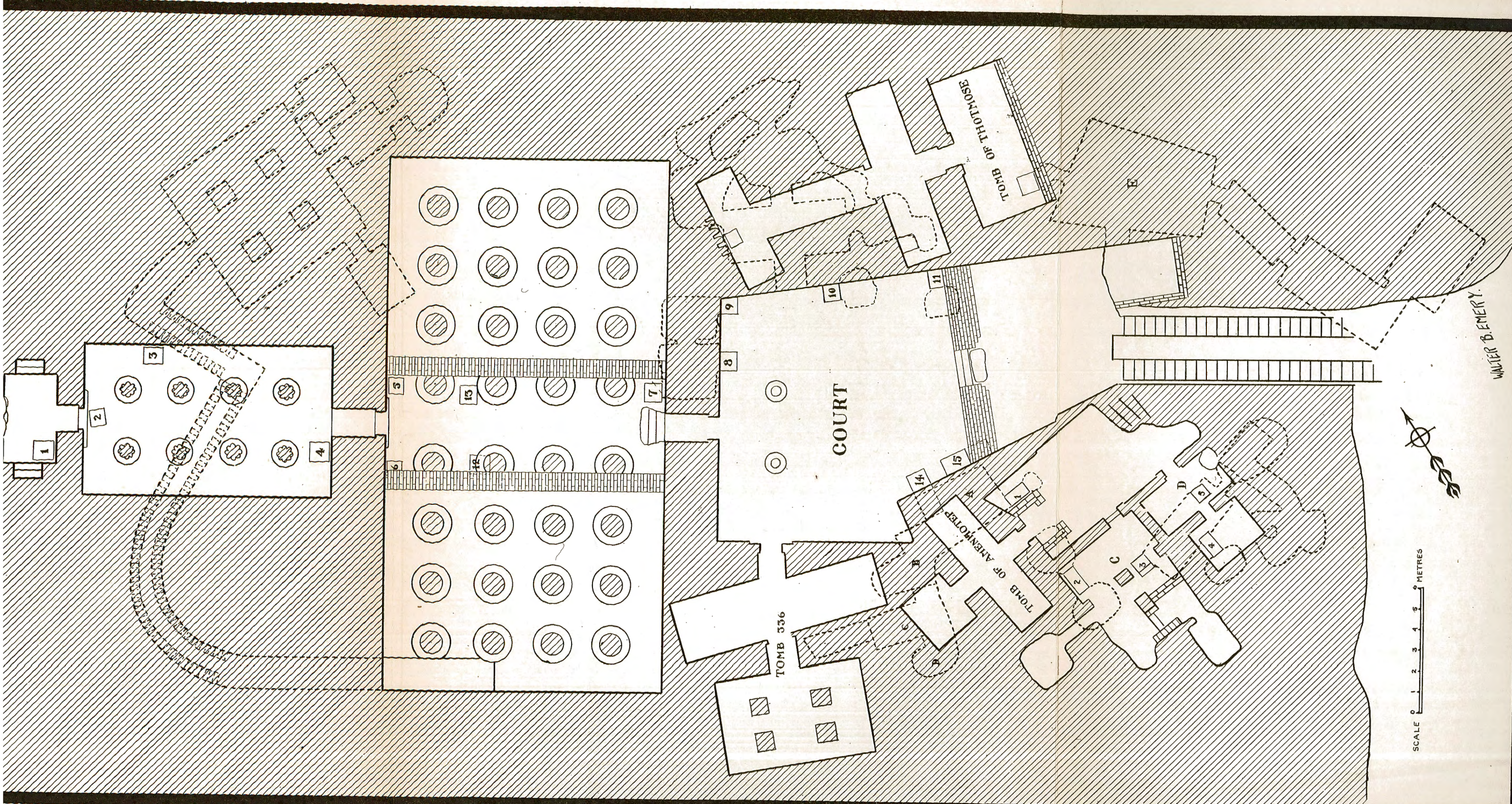
a figure of Queen Hatshepsut. The figure of the queen is depicted in male dress making an offering. The design is painted in red with a black outline. Plate XXXVIII.

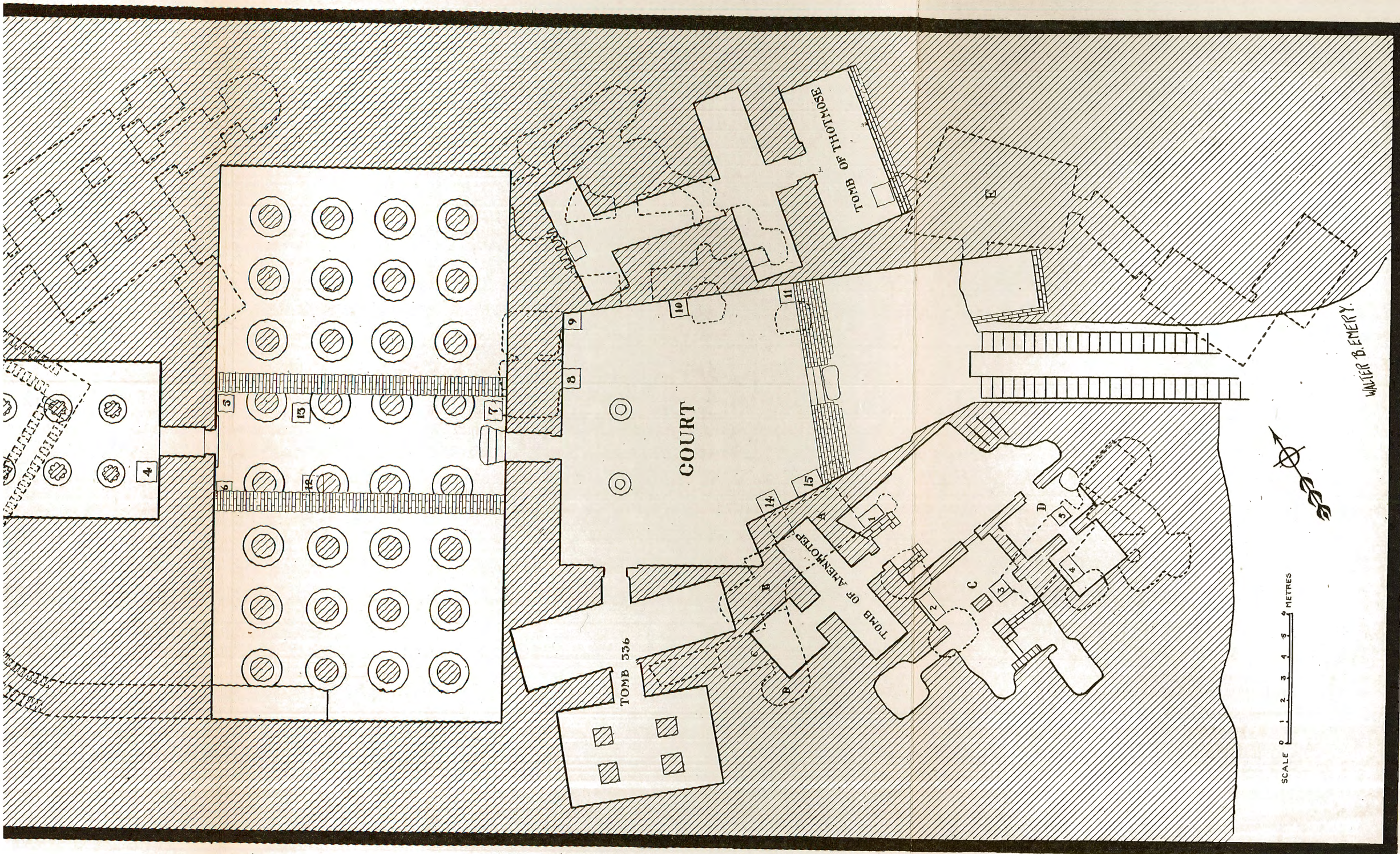
An important discovery was made at the close of the work of last season, in the court of the tomb of Amenemhat, No. 97. As the large number of objects have not yet been examined it is our intention to publish them in our next report.



VIEW OF SHEIKH ABD EL GURNEH, SHOWING POSITION OF TOMBS.



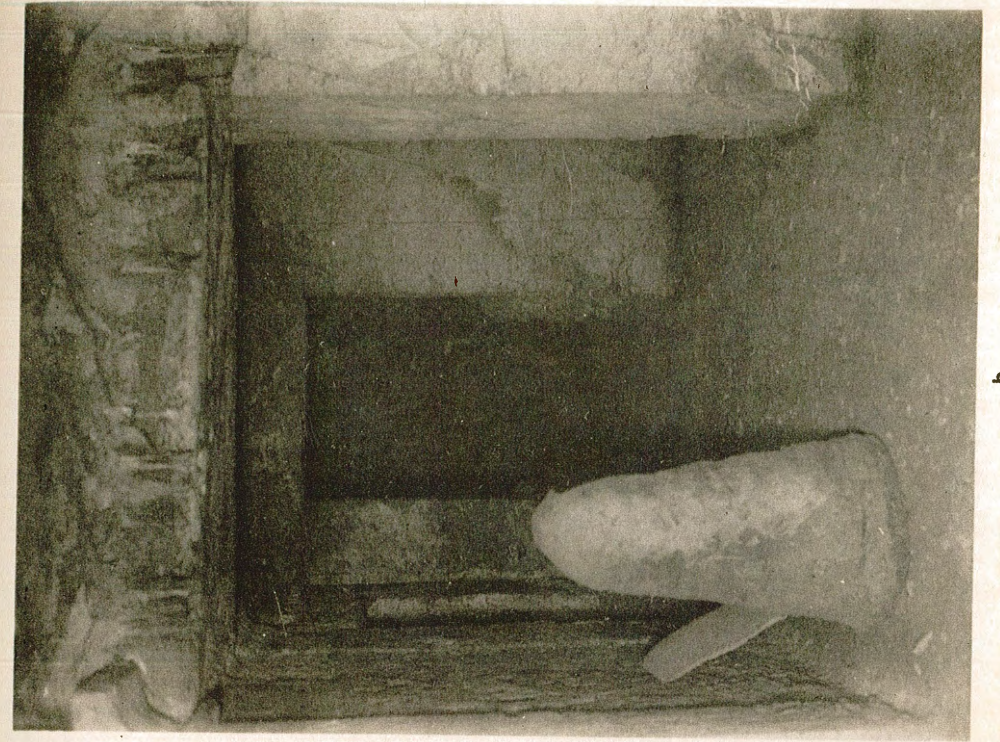




PLAN OF TOMB OF RAMOSE.



a



b

TOMB OF RAMOSE.
(a) ENTRANCE TO BURIAL SHAFT. (b) BURIAL CHAMBER.



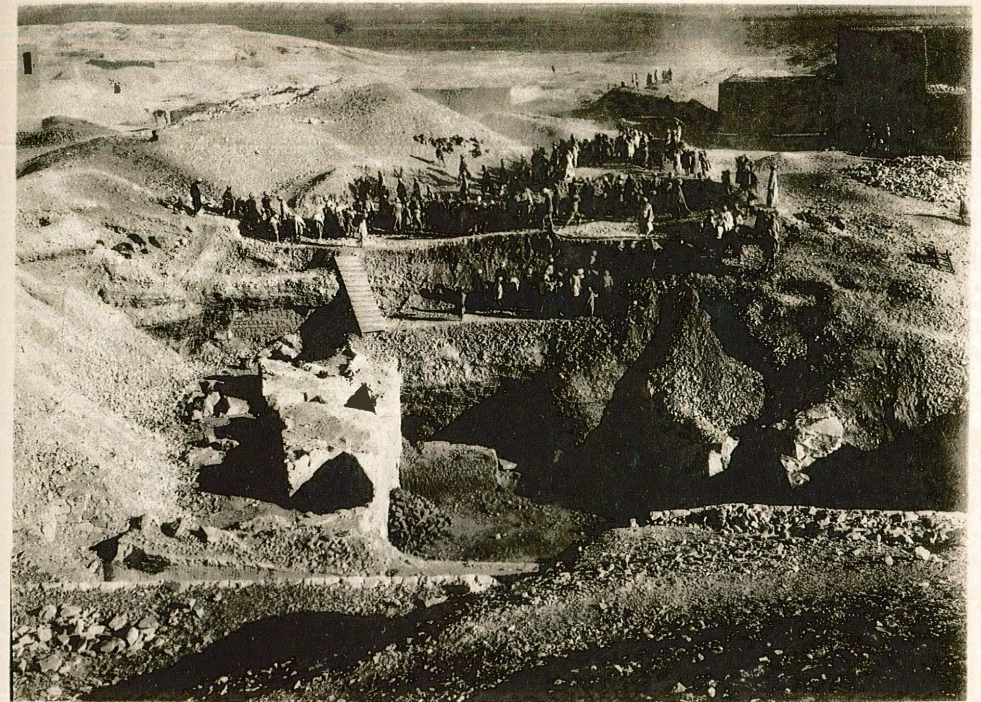
a



b

TOMB OF RAMOSE.

(a) THE COURT. (b) THE COURT BEFORE THE WORK OF 1926.



TOMB OF RAMOSE.
CLEARING OF COURT, SHOWING VARIOUS LEVELS OF WORK.



a



b

TOMB OF RAMOSE.

(a) CLEARING THE COURT, 1925. (b) UNFINISHED STELAE CUT IN ROCK ON WEST WALL.

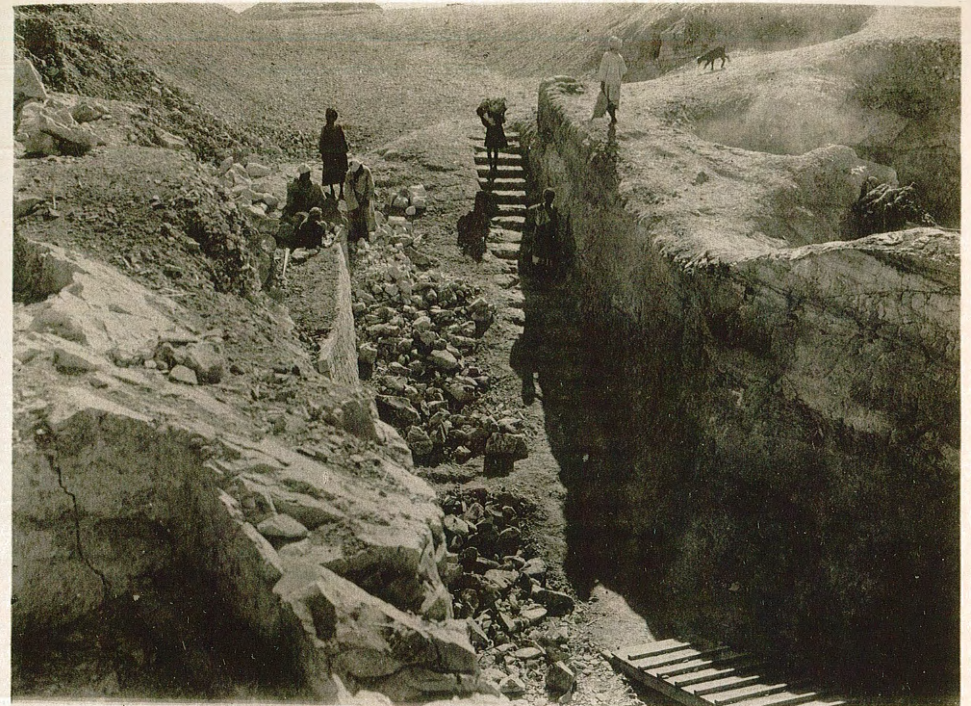


a



b

TOMB OF RAMOSE.
(a) WORK ABOVE THE COURT; (b) HEAD OF THE GREAT STAIRWAY.



a



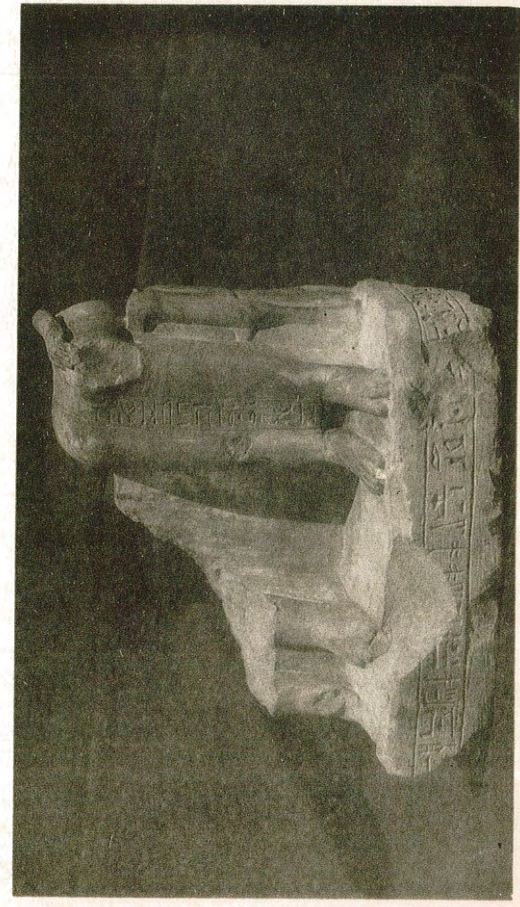
b

TOMB OF RAMOSE.

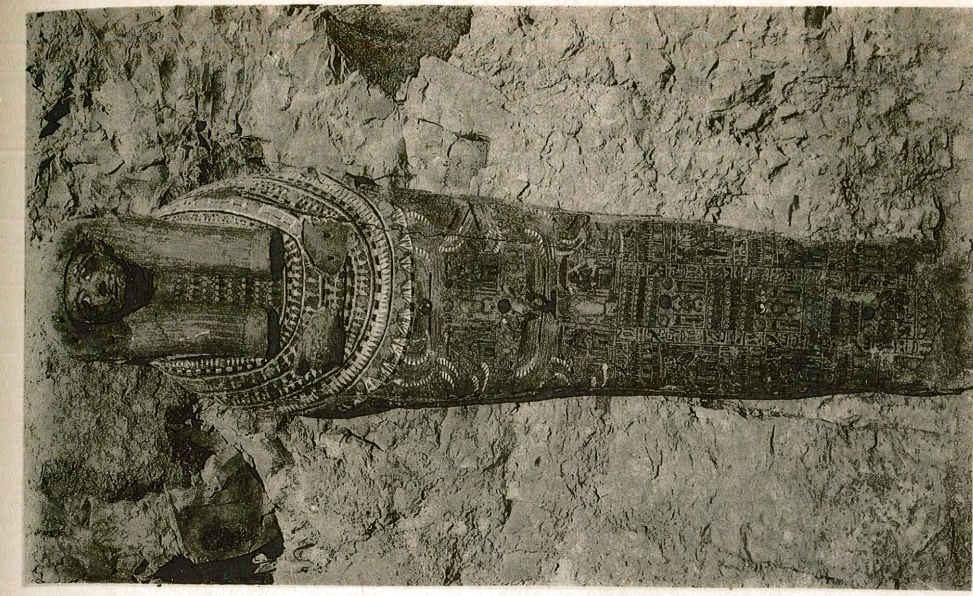
(a) STAIRWAY TO COURT. (b) BRICK ENCLOSURE BEFORE ENTRANCE OF TOMB E.



b

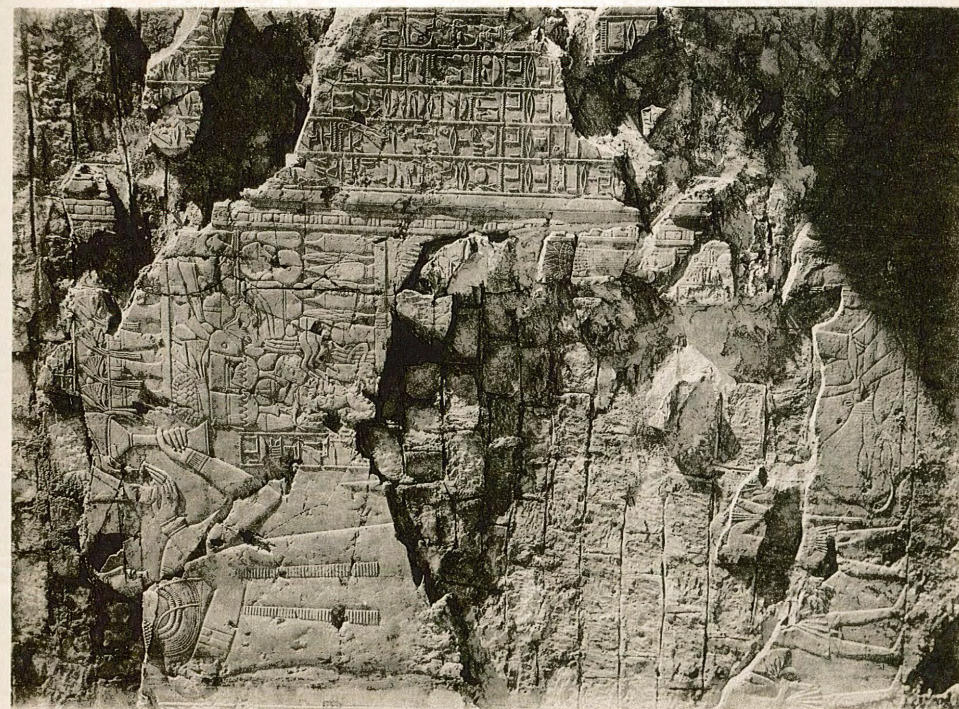
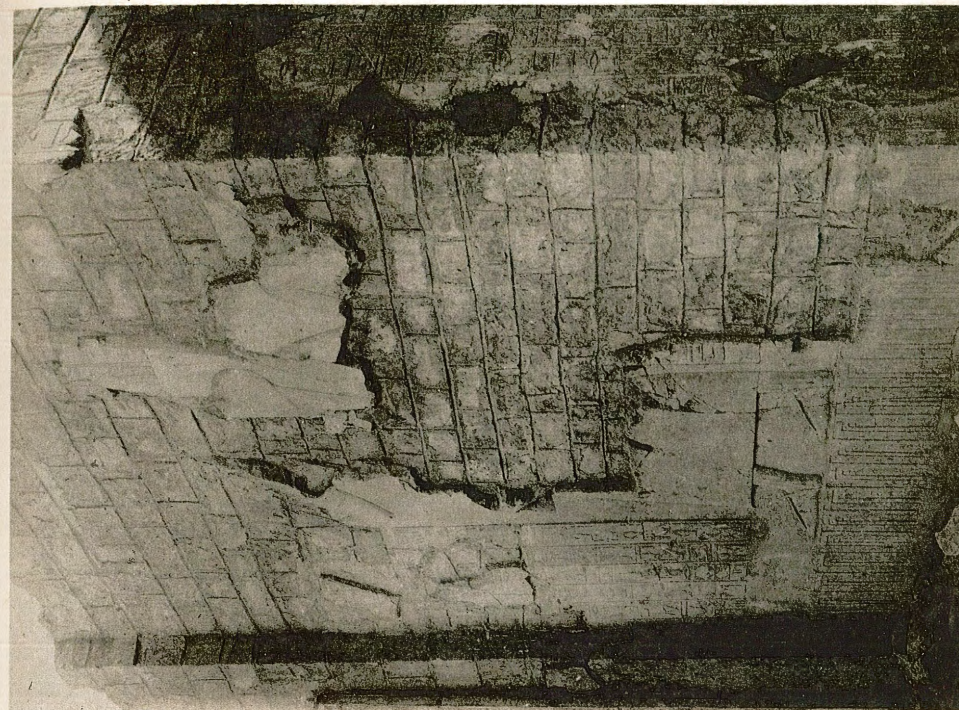


c

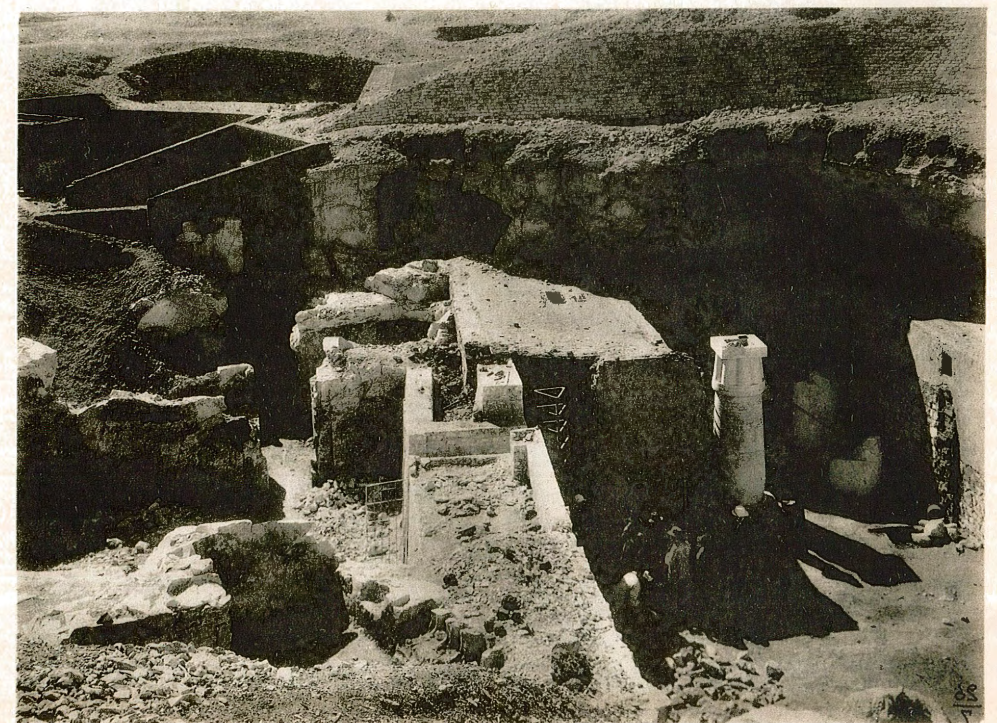
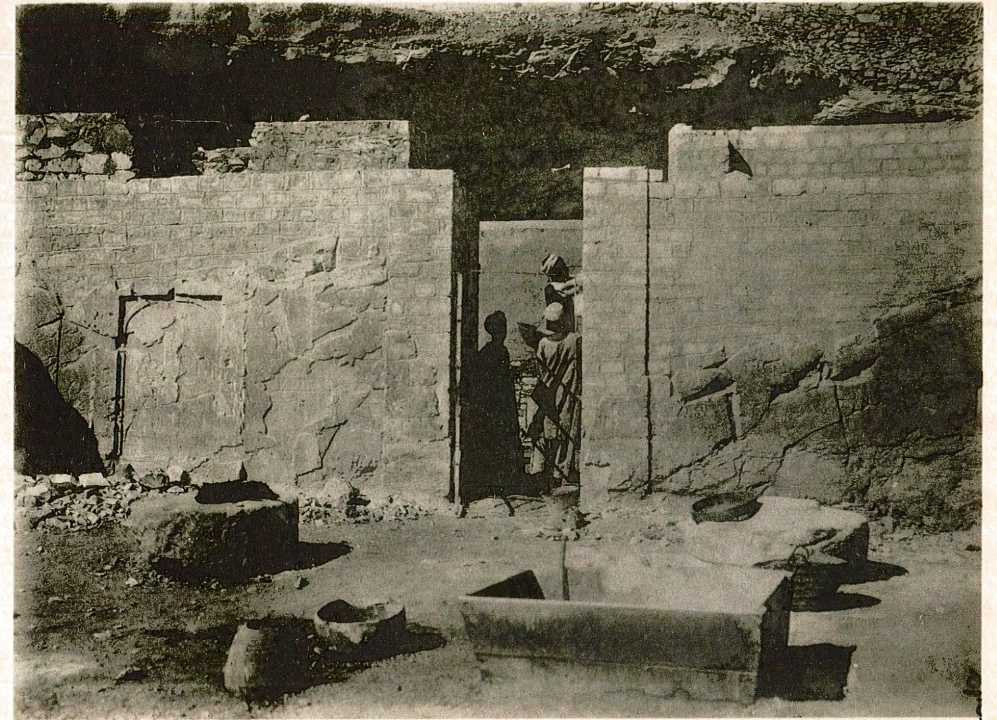


a

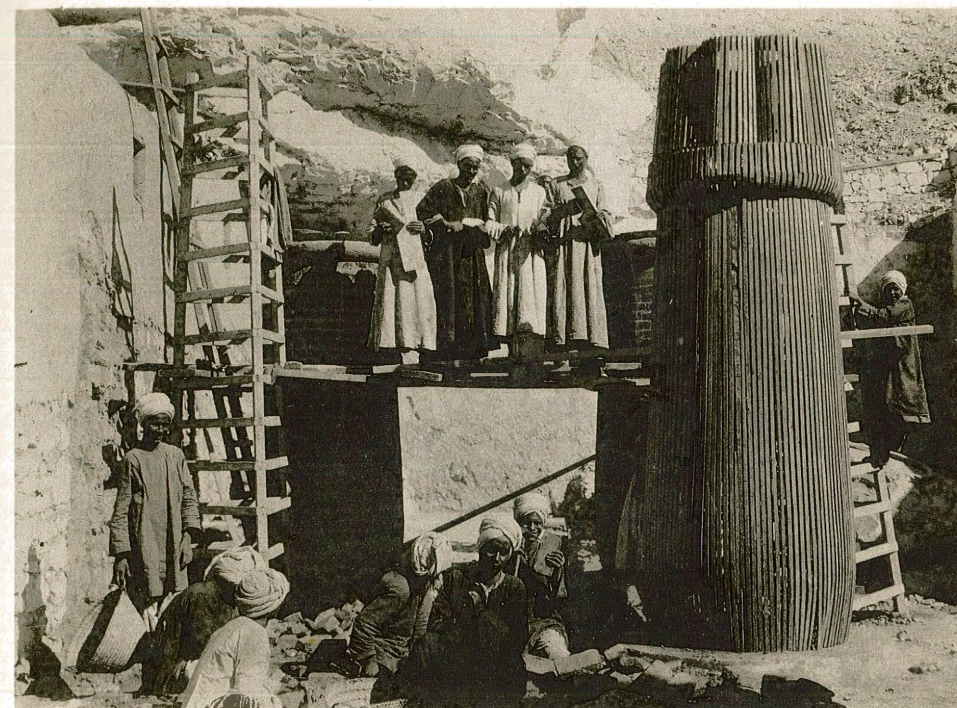
COURT OF RAMOSE.
(a) COFFIN LID OF XXIV DYNASTY. Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$. (b) WOODEN HOE. Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$. (c) SMALL LIMESTONE GROUP. Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$.



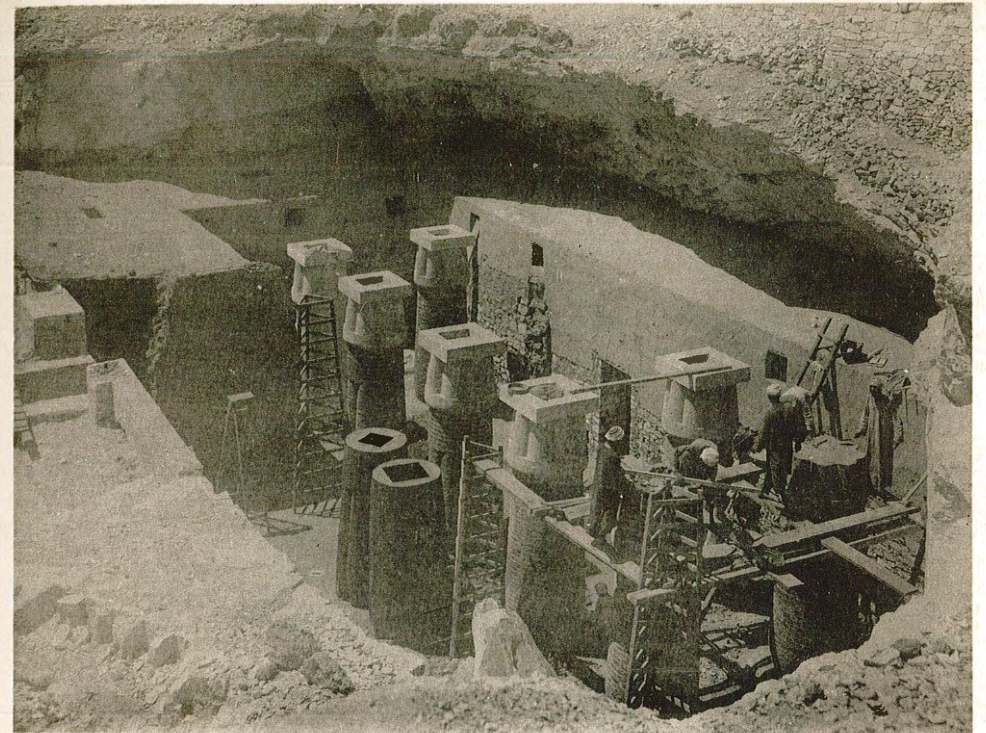
TOMB OF RAMOSE.
RESTORATION OF RELIEFS ON WALLS OF HYPOSTYLE HALL.



TOMB OF RAMOSE.
WORK OF RESTORATION.



TOMB OF RAMOSE.
RESTORATION OF COLUMNS.



TOMB OF RAMOSE.
RESTORATION OF COLUMNS.



TOMB OF THOTMOSE.



a



b

TOMB OF AMENHOTEP.

(a) THE COURT.

(b) CLEARING ABOVE THE COURT.



a



b

TOMB OF AMENHOTEP.

(a) INSCRIBED DOOR JAMB.

(b) GENERAL VIEW OF TOMBS A AND B.



OBJECTS FROM TOMB OF RAMOSE.

Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$.



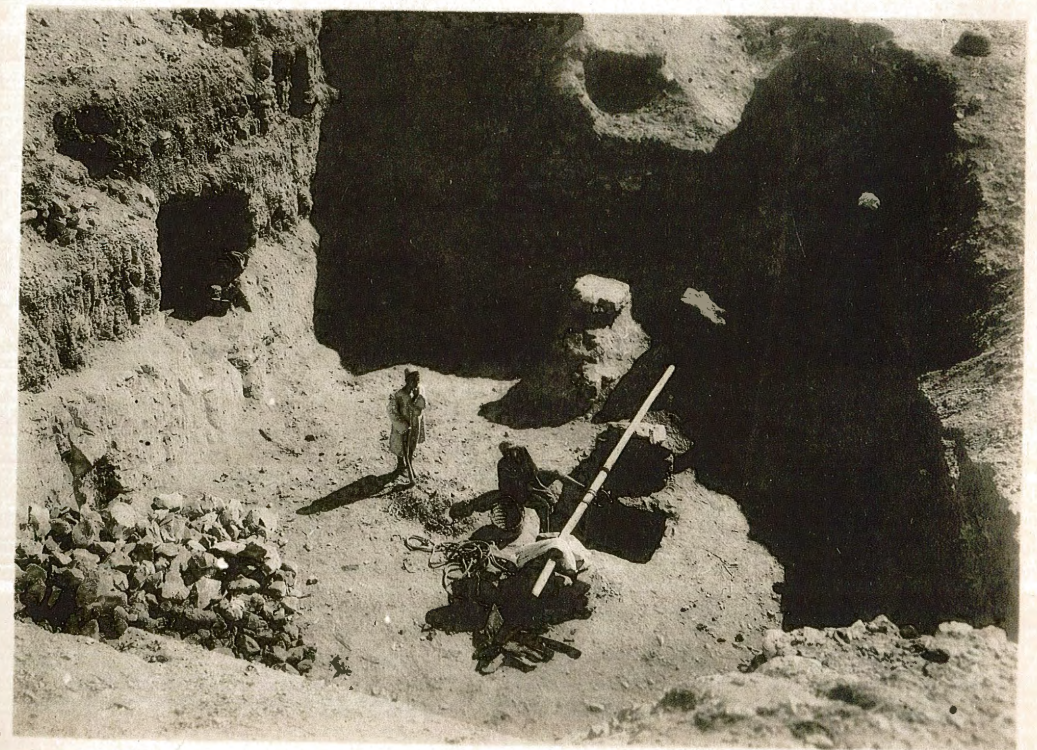
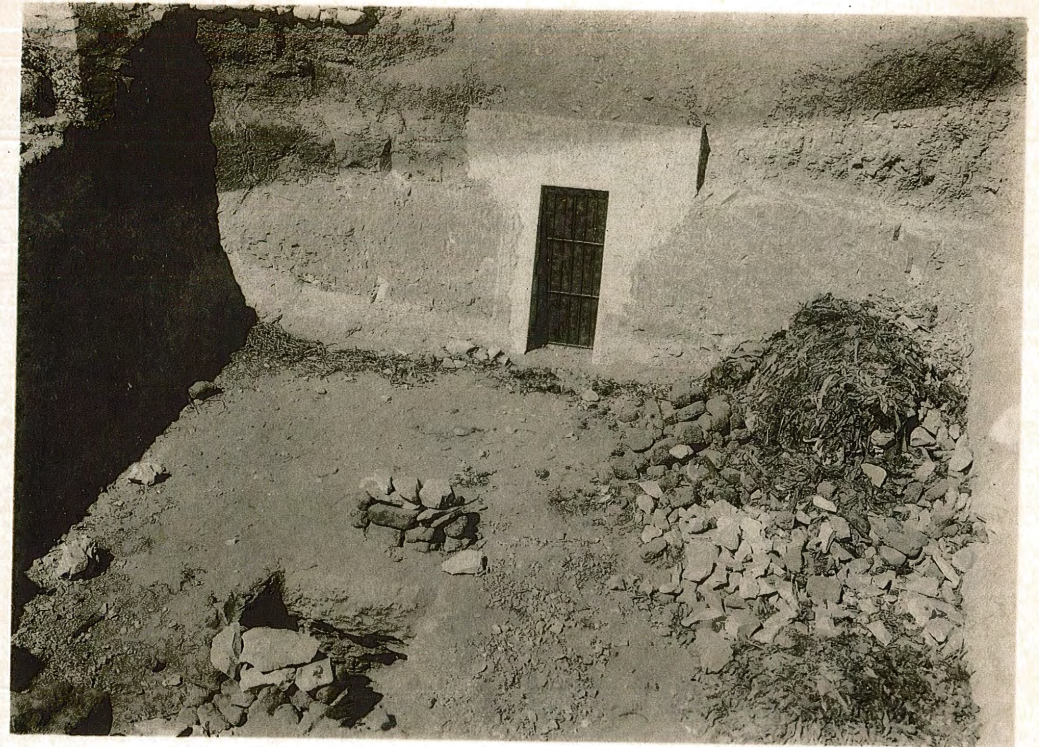
a



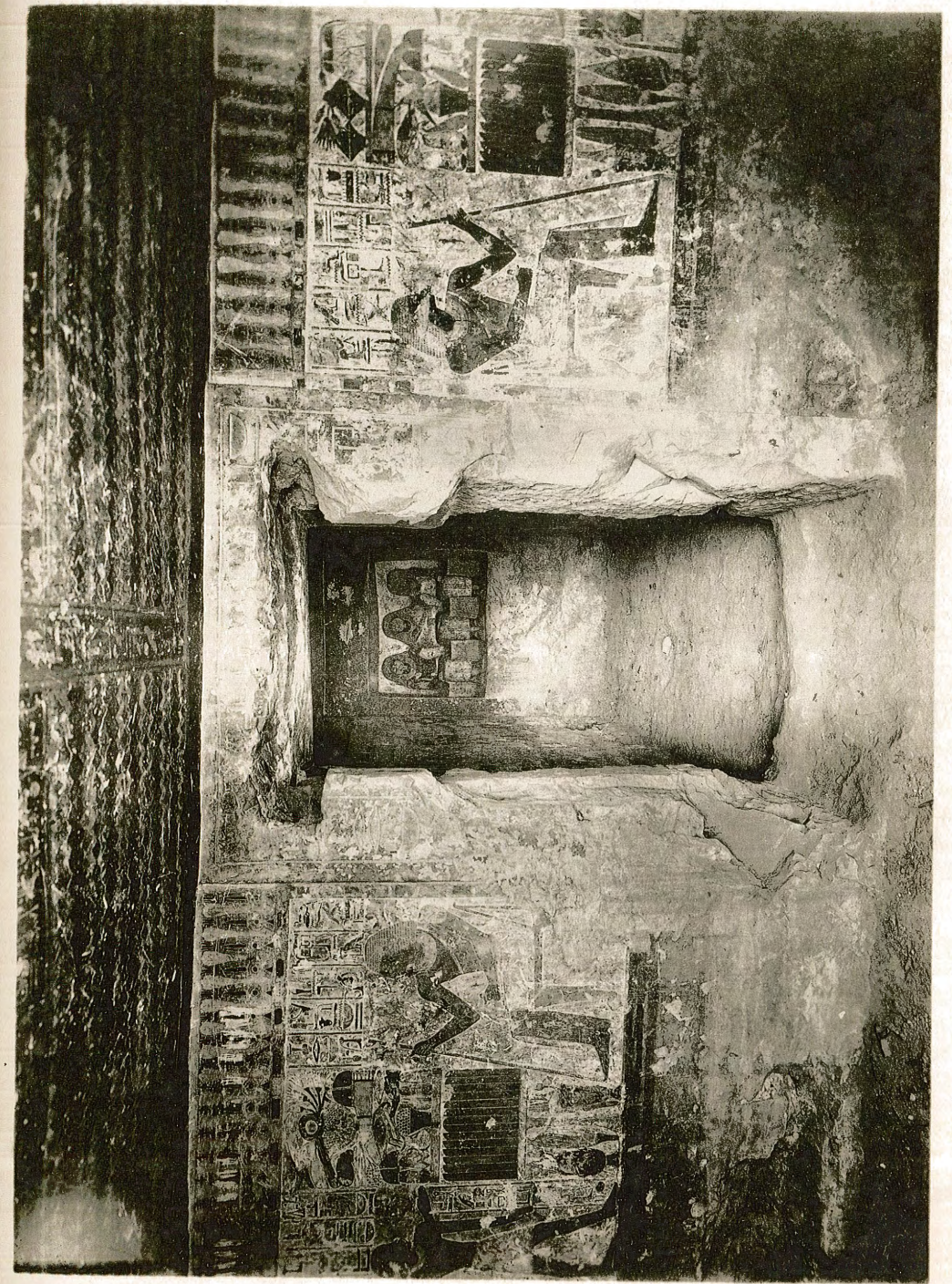
b

USHABTIU.

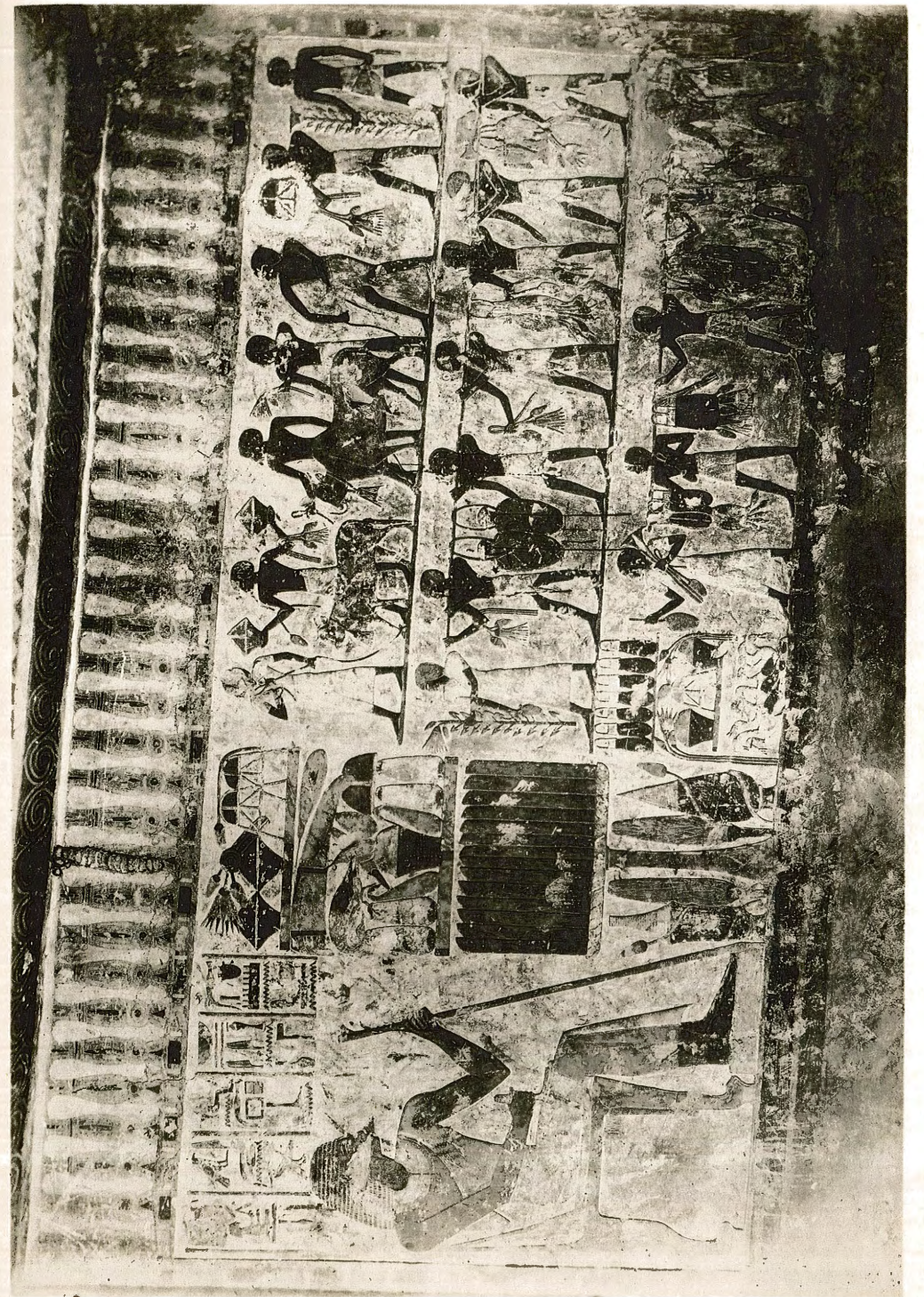
Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$.



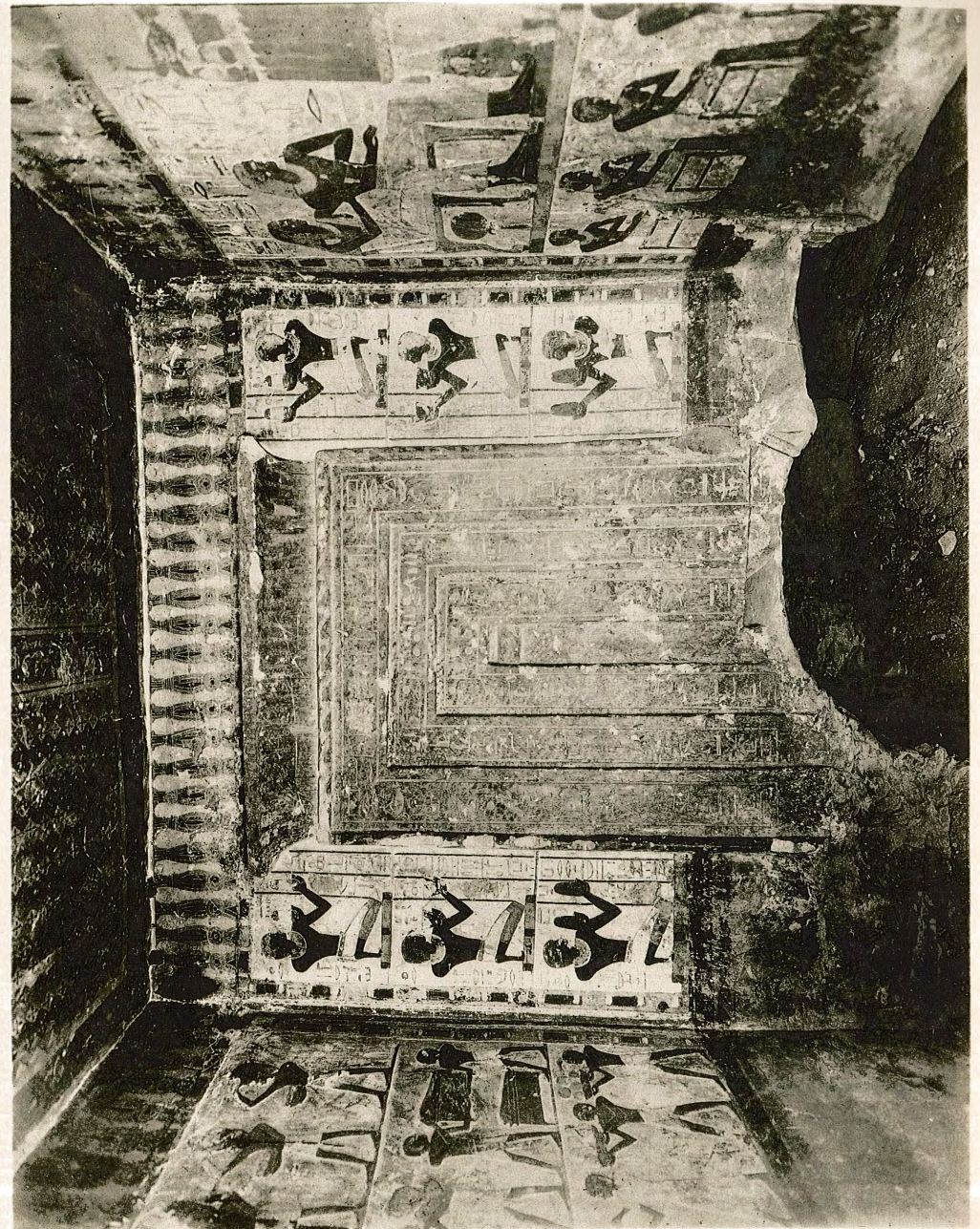
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.



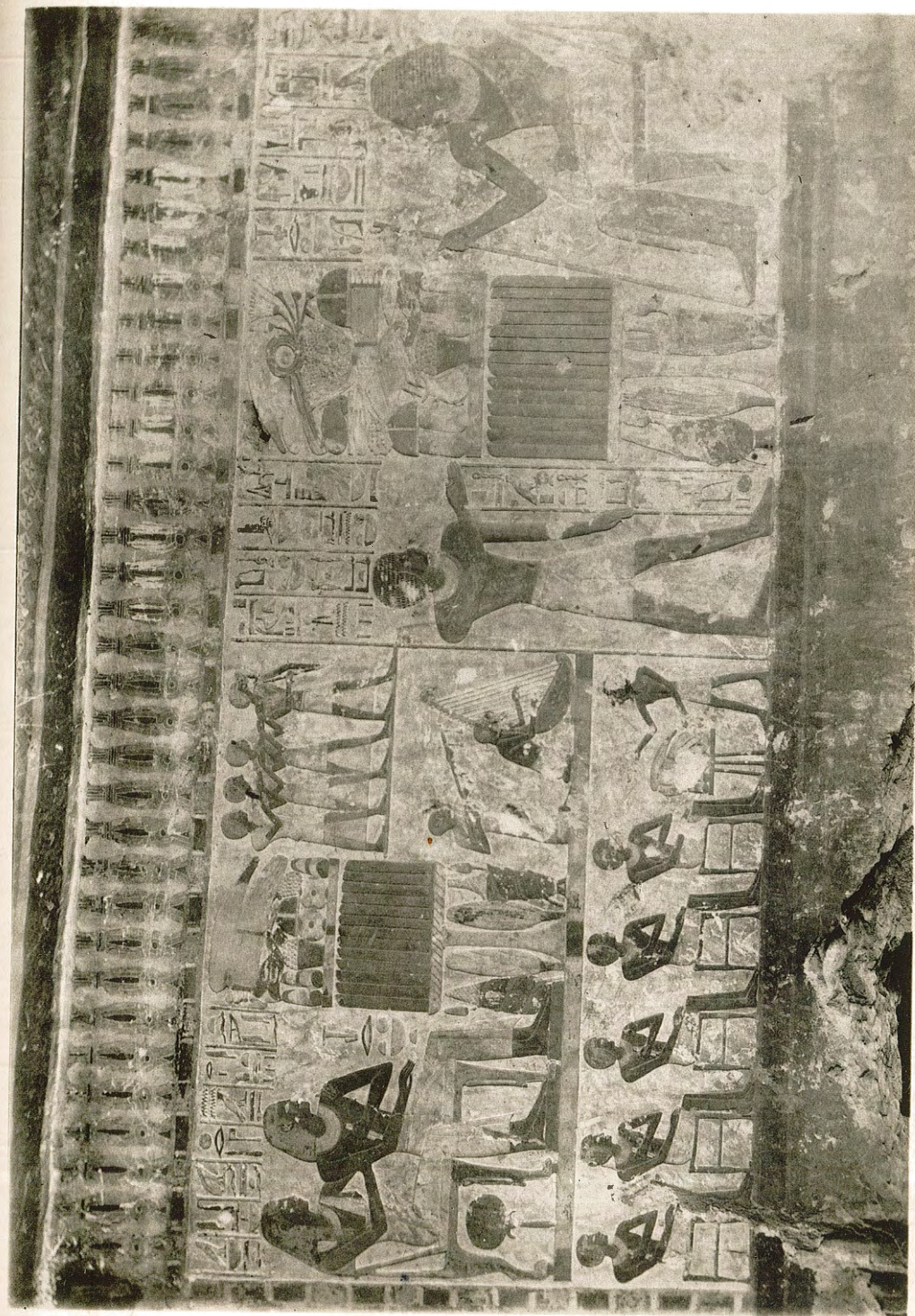
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
VIEW FROM ENTRANCE.



TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
MAIN HALL, WALL C.



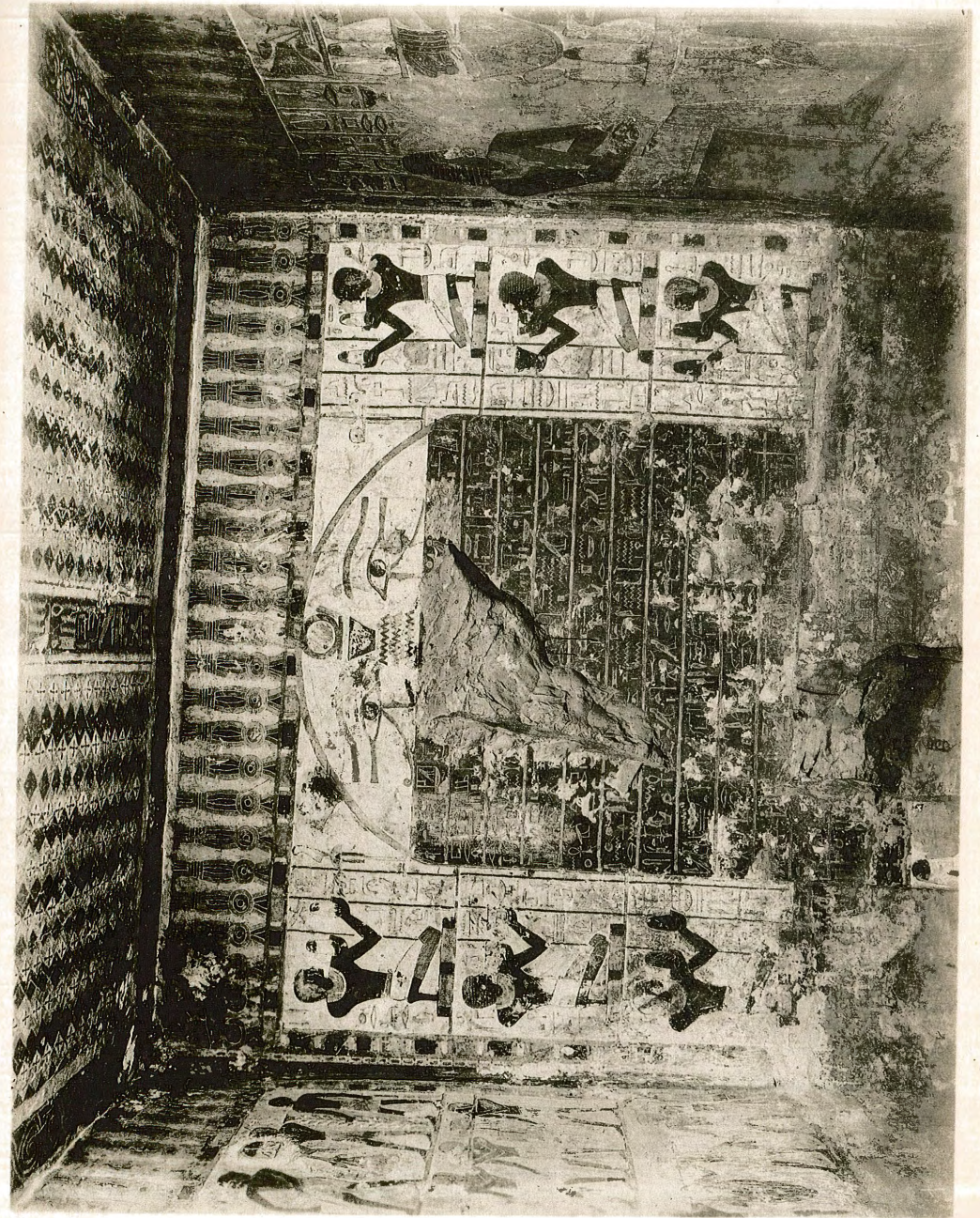
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
STELA IN MAIN HALL, WALL D.



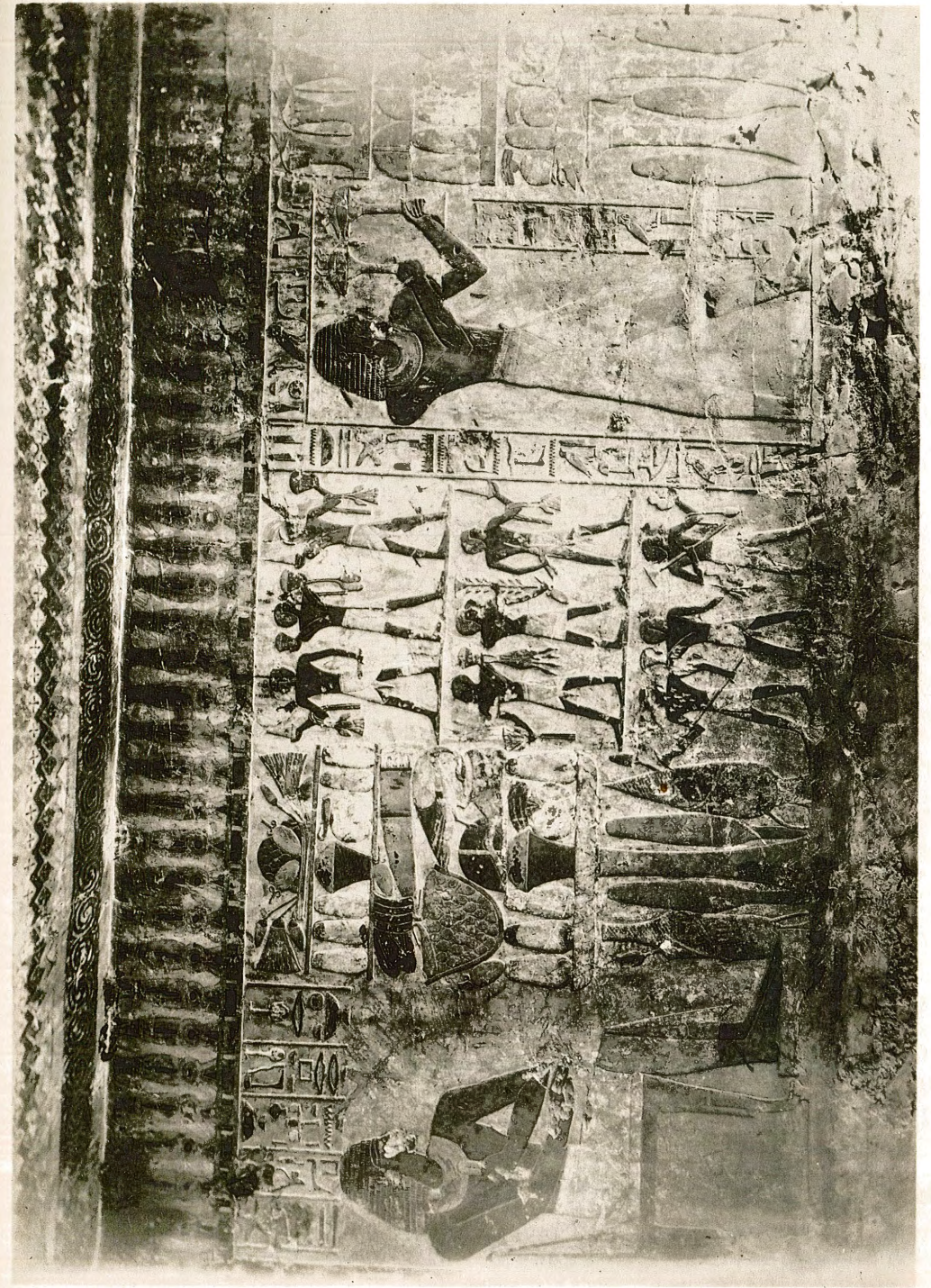
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
MAIN HALL, WALL E.



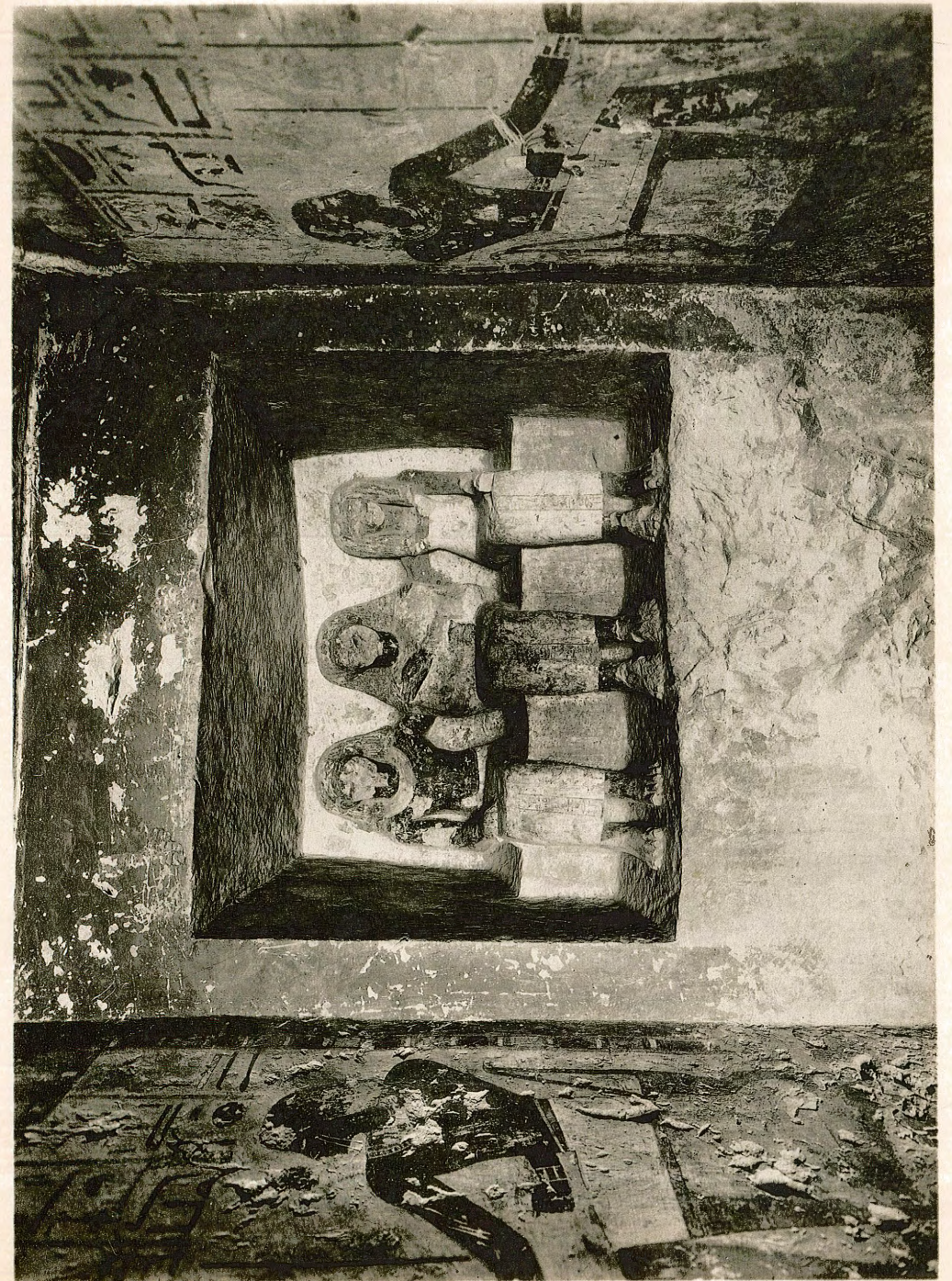
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
MAIN HALL, WALL F.



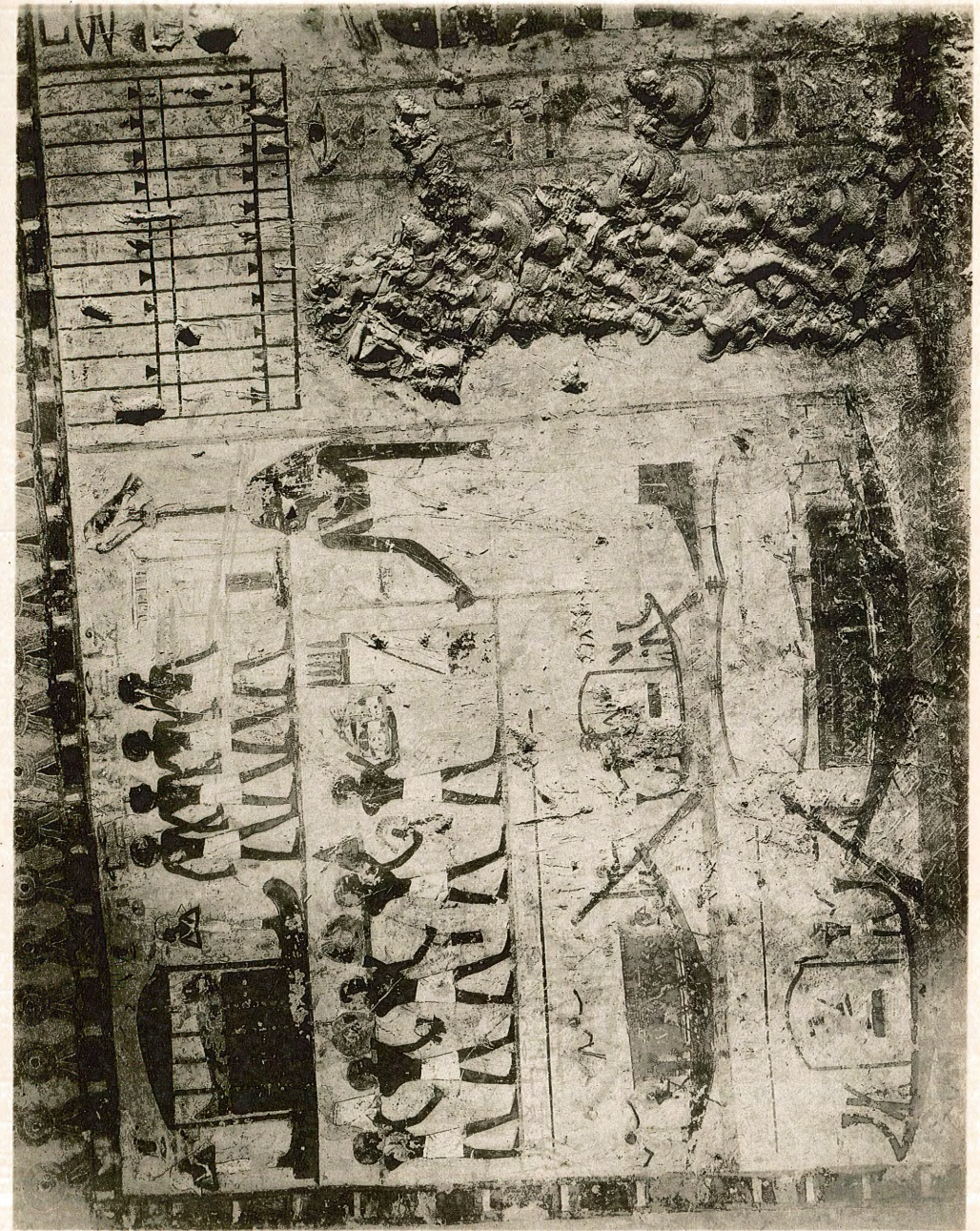
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
STELA IN MAIN HALL, WALL G.



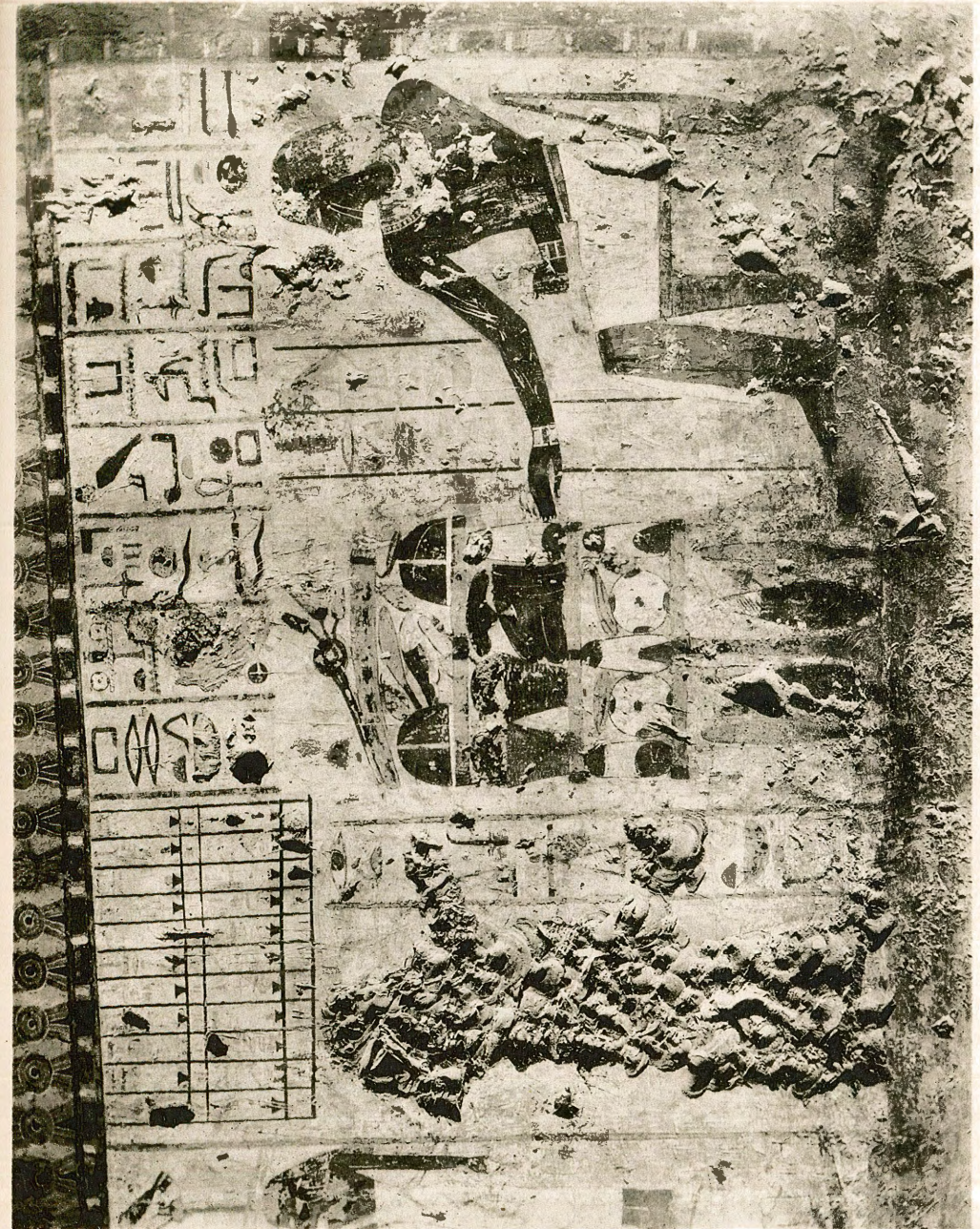
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
MAIN HALL, WALL H.



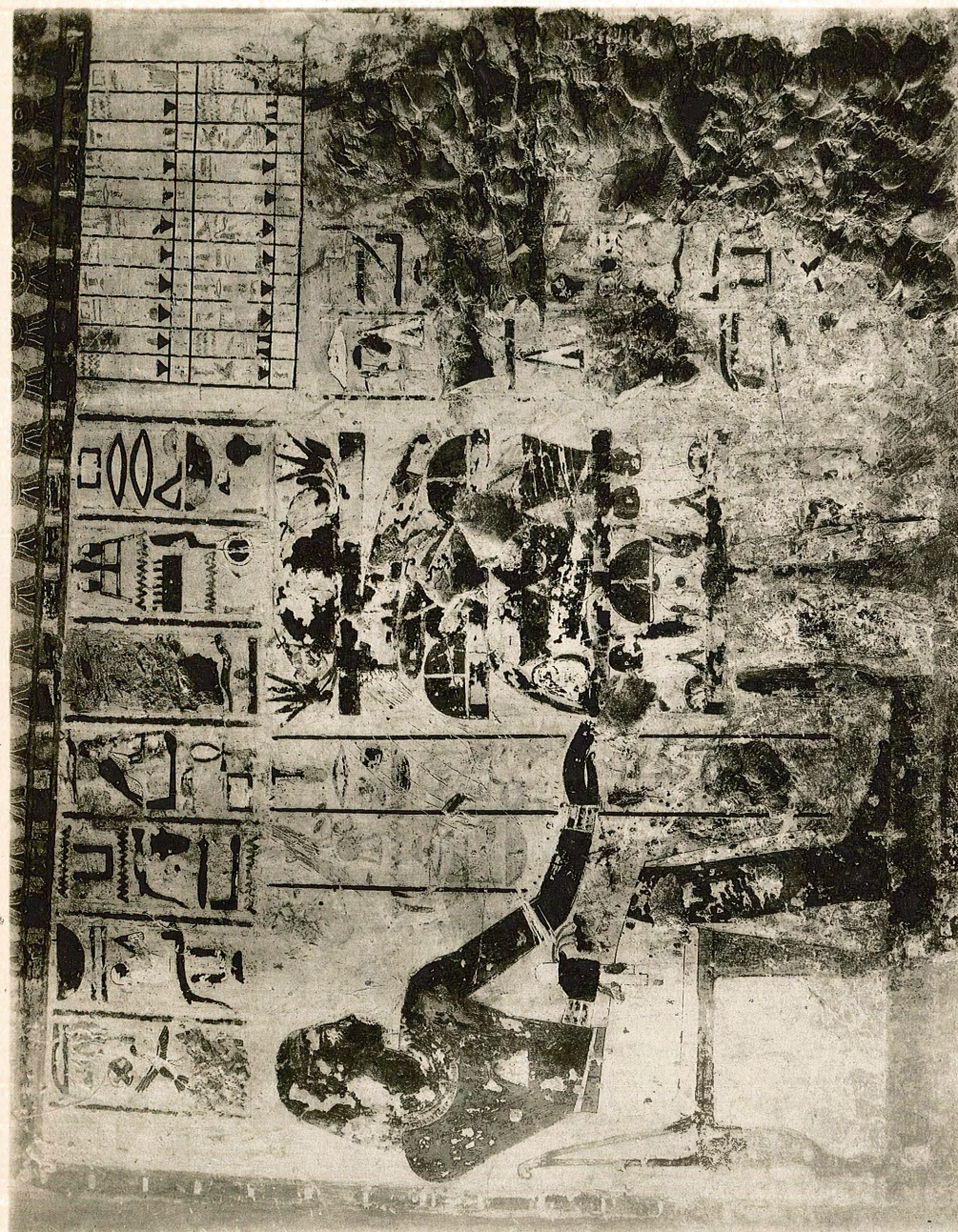
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
THE SHRINE.



TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
SHRINE, WALL K.



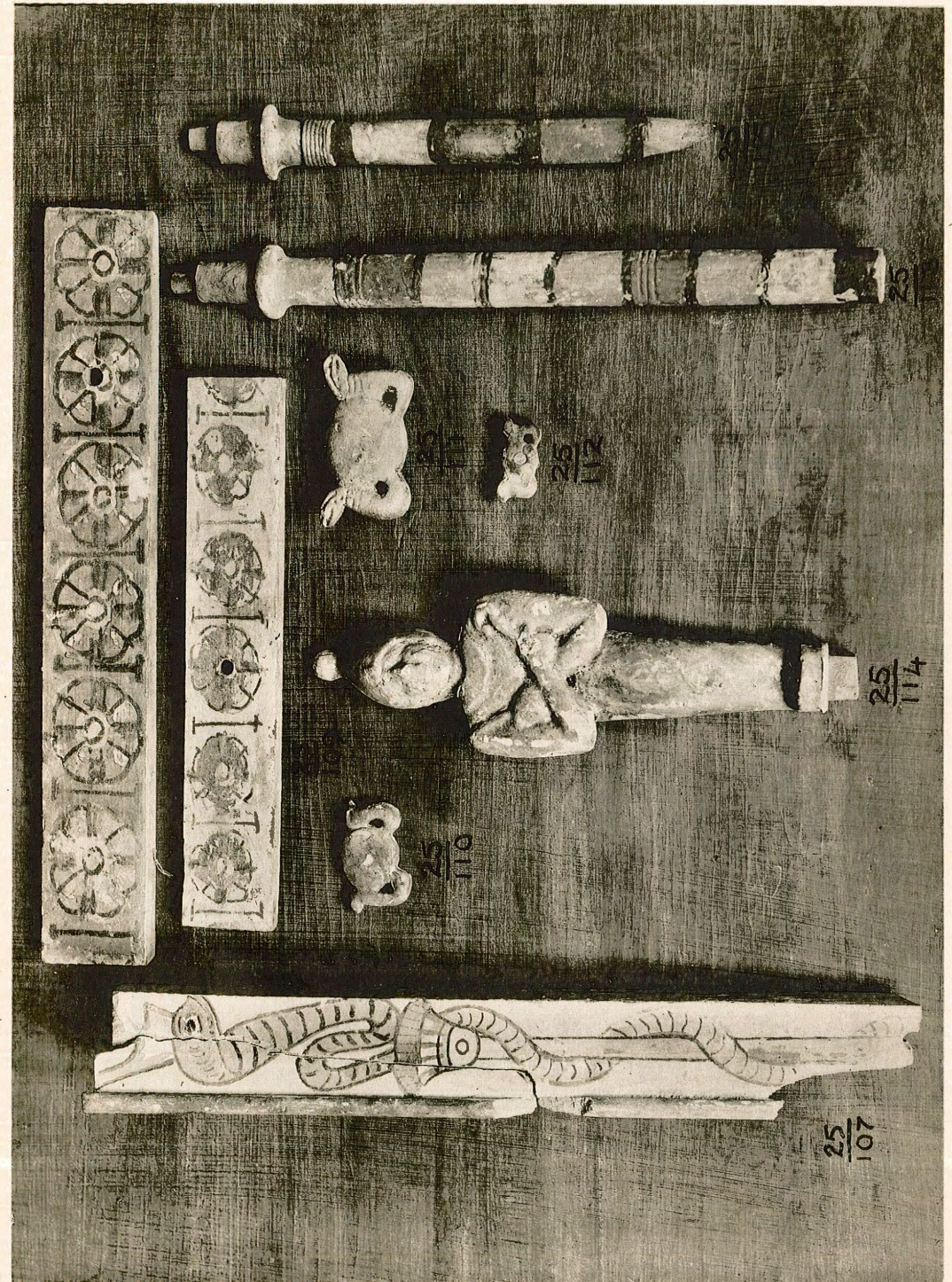
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
SHRINE, WALL K.



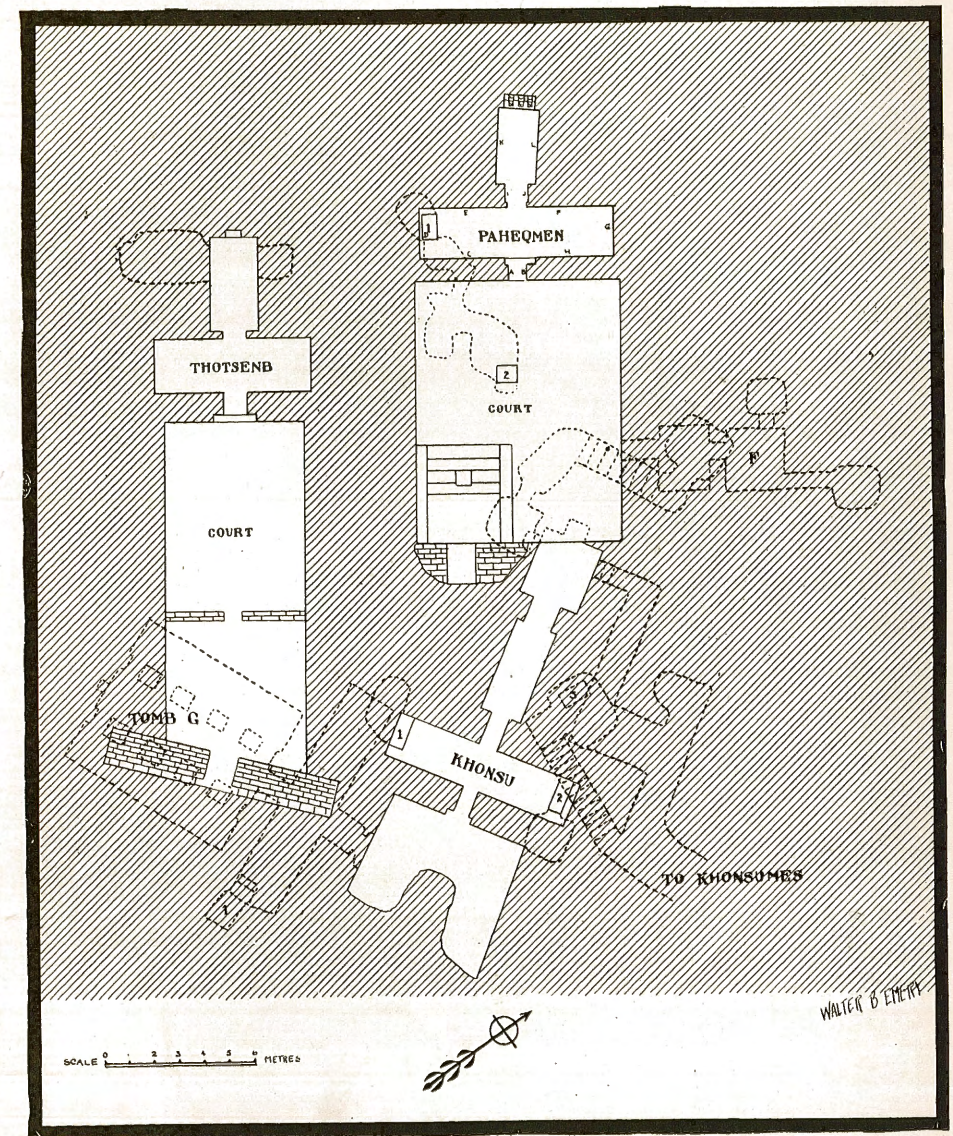
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
SHRINE, WALL L.



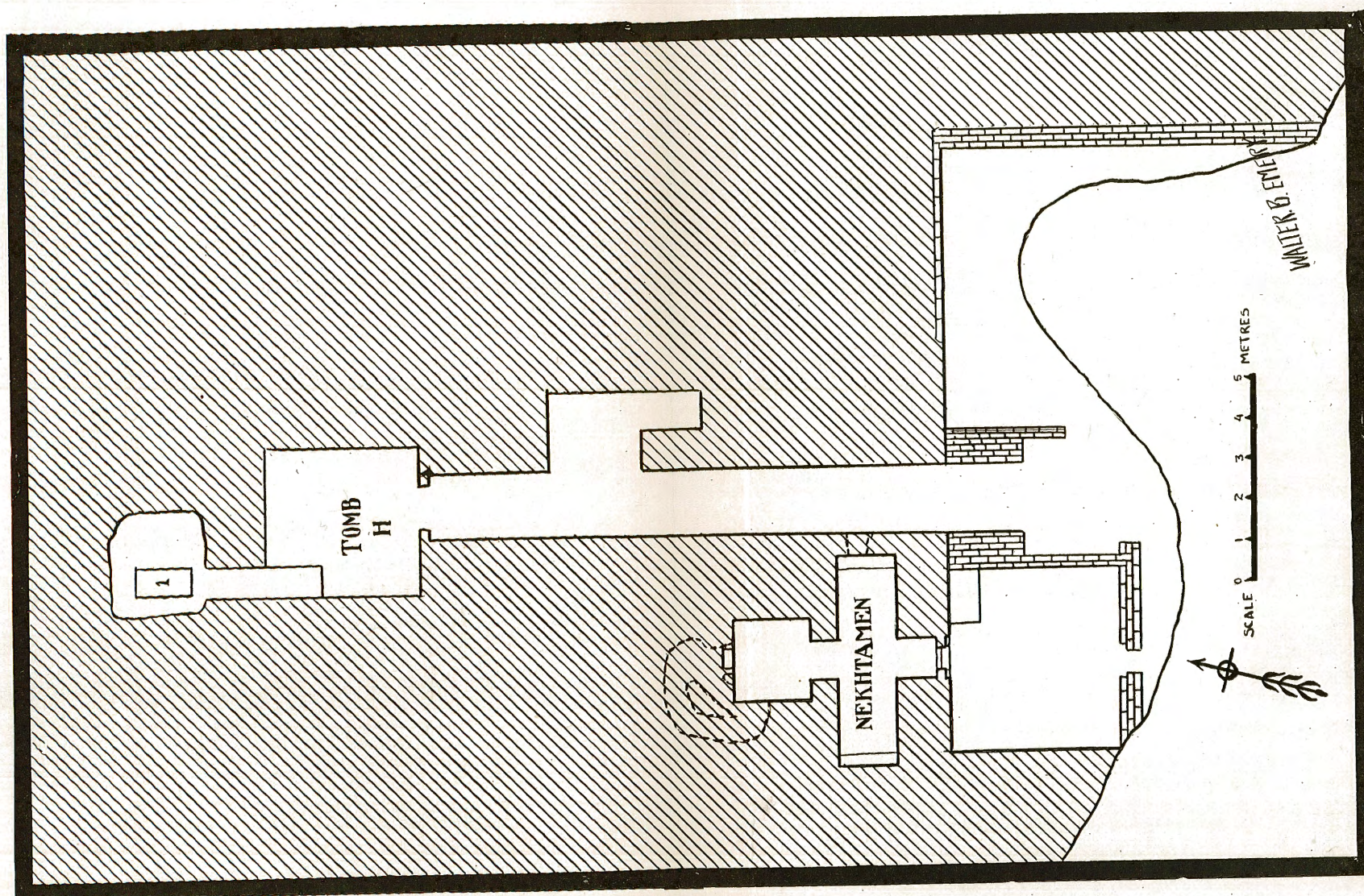
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN.
SHRINE, WALL L.



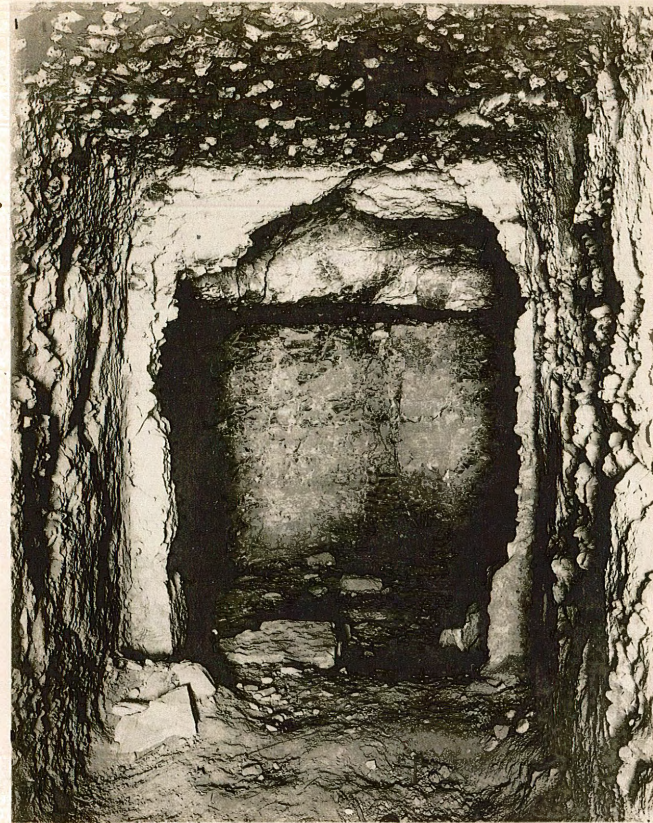
TOMB OF PAHEQMEN. FRAGMENTS OF PAINTED WOODEN BOX.
Scale just under 1/2.



PLAN OF THE TOMBS OF PAHEQMEN, KHONSU, THOTSENB, AND OF TOMB G.



PLAN OF TOMB OF NEKHTAMEN.



a



b

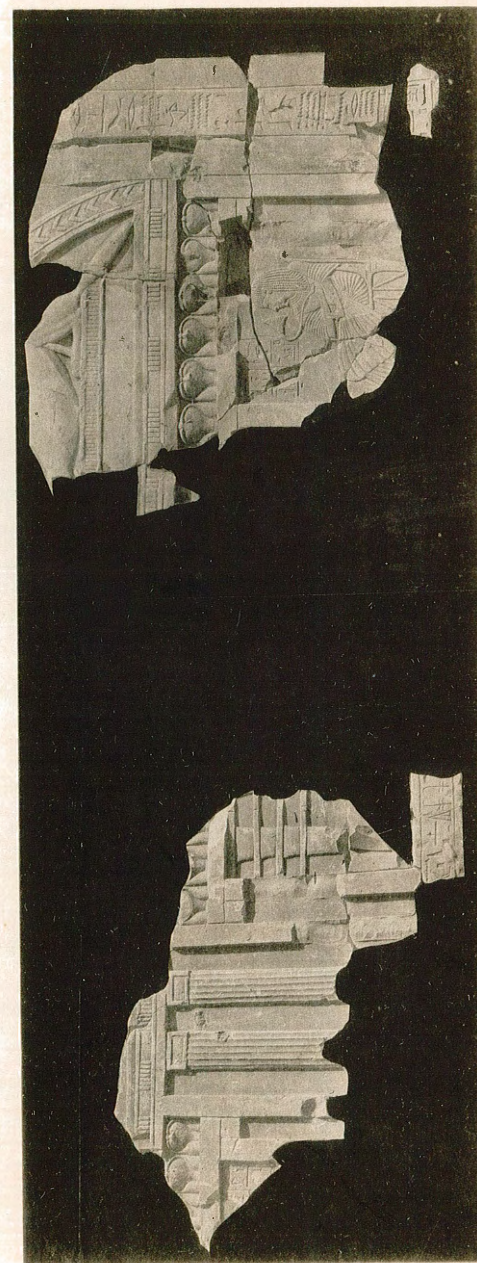
(a) PASSAGE OF TOMB H.
(b) COURT OF NEKHTAMEN AND TOMB H.



TOMB OF NEKHTAMEN.
BURNT CLAY STELA SUPPORTED BY KNEELING FIGURE.
Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$.



a



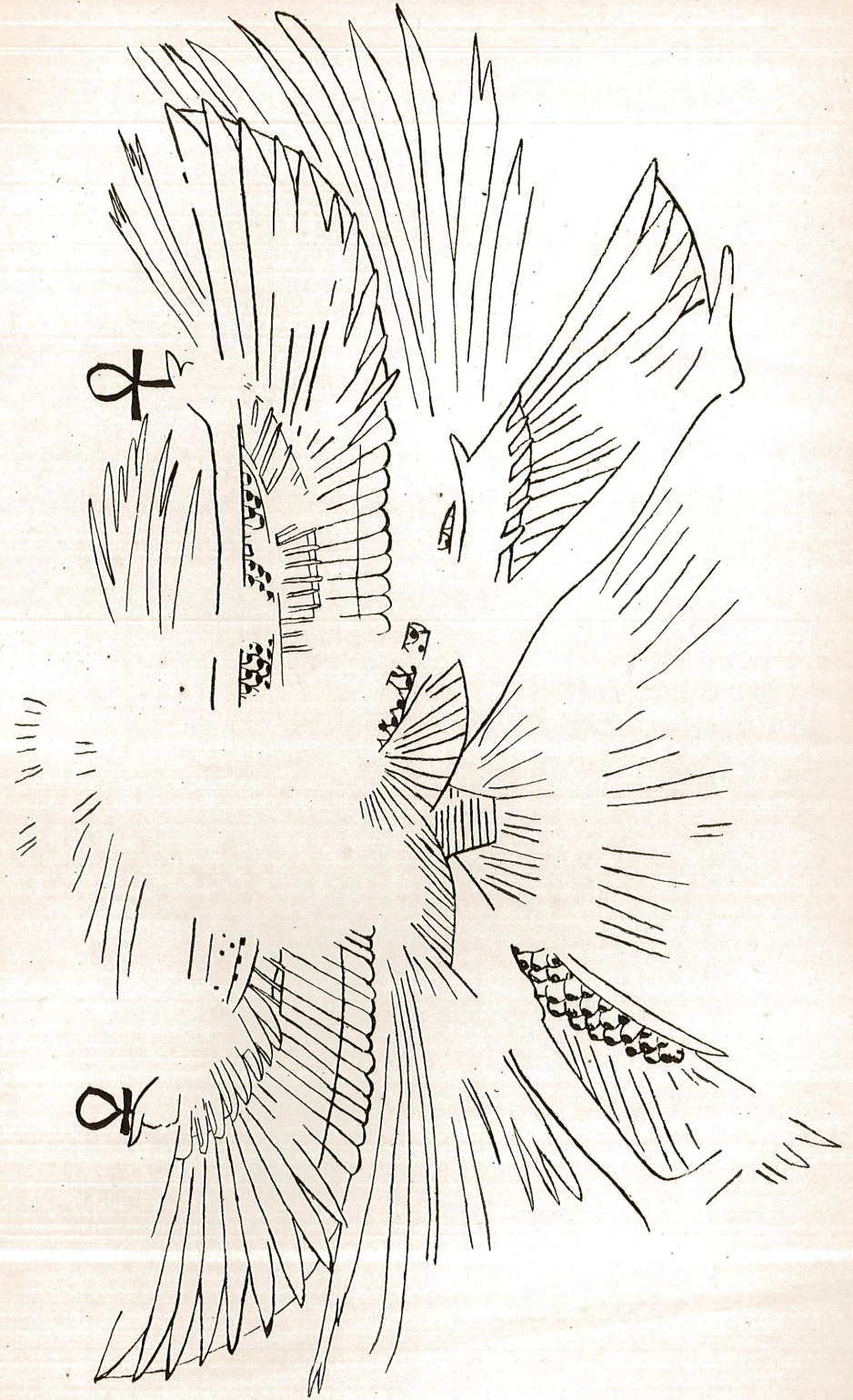
b

TOMB OF MINNEKHT.
(a) MUD BRICK STELA IN COURT. (b) RELIEFS FROM LINTEL (Scale about $\frac{1}{2}$).



OSTRAKON, WITH FIGURE OF HATSHEPSUT, FROM TEST PITS
SOUTH OF TOMB 131.

Scale, $\frac{1}{8}$.



WINGED FIGURE FROM SOUTH WALL. TOMB OF NEKHTAMEN.